

GEN-INTERNATIONAL

Annual Report 2013



Global Ecovillage Network, Worldwide

Connecting communities for a sustainable world

Connecting communities for a sustainable world

Global Ecovillage Network, Worldwide



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Message from the President of GEN



The tide of time is tumescent. A singing brook has grown into a raging river. Gone are the times when we believed we could just watch in quiet contemplation from the riverbank as the world goes by. Today we know that we are an integral part of the continuous process of change. We know that everything we do has complex ramifications for what is going on in the world, even if each individual action in itself seems insignificant. All of us, along with everything we do – whether habitual or wildly creative – form a part of evolution unfolding. As humanity, we are a global phenomenon. As human beings, we have become a force of nature that has the power to extinguish life on this planet. We are inexorably changing the face of the earth. We are creating new realities.

How can we wield the power and responsibility that lie in our hands with care? As humanity, are we going to leave behind a legacy of collective stupidity in continuing to destroy life systems around us? Or will we express the potential of our collective wisdom and use our intelligence in interconnected ways to regenerate the social and natural fabrics of life?

Many local solutions, brought together and networked into fields of changed perceptions and knowledge, can lead to societal transition. Together, GEN and Gaia Education form the face of the ecovillage movement. What started as a multitude of niche-innovations on the ground, this is gradually becoming aligned into a recognisable language and design. Together, as a network that celebrates the diversity of cultures, we become more and more ready to take advantage of the windows of opportunity that are opening up in these times, both through pain and catastrophe, and through a rising awareness of these gifts and challenges.

Increasingly, people are searching for purpose and meaning in their lives and long to live low-impact, high-quality lifestyles in community. They long for connection. Communities are waking up to the fact that it is up to them to design their own pathways into the future if they don't want to be swept along in the wake of an economic paradigm that puts profit above wellbeing. A heightened interest in participatory approaches to adaptive governance is emerging. In Brussels and elsewhere, GEN is strengthening its alliances with like-minded networks, like those in the Transition Town and Permaculture movements.

In this coming year, we are focusing on making the GEN organisational structures more robust and effective, following the inspiration of sociocracy. The working groups of GEN-International are emerging in interlocking circles, with representation from all over our planet. Slowly, but surely, we are legally registering our offices around the world, and becoming more ready and able to channel funds to support the change we want to



see. A GEN-Consultancy, a platform of experts with a huge and diverse range of skills and profiles, is waiting to be realised, ready to act and share our wealth of experience in community-led development.

We give thanks to our elders who had the wisdom to plant the seeds for the Global Ecovillage Network nearly 20 years ago. In this year, we especially honour Margrit Kennedy, who kindled the initiating impulse together with her husband, Declan Kennedy, and close friends, Hildur and Ross Jackson. Margrit left this world on December 28, 2013. And we send our love, gratitude and deepest appreciation to Hildur, who has been at the very heart of our movement since the beginning and for every step of the way. May you be well, Hildur, and you also, Ross, as you travel together in these special times.

We give thanks to the vibrant young people, who are bringing NextGEN into a next level of aliveness and readiness. Thank you for unfolding the next step in GEN's evolution.

And lastly, we give thanks to all those doing the work on the ground, and to all those who help make this work visible. Thank you to all the beautiful people from the networks of GEN who have helped bring this report forth! Special thanks go to Ousmane Pame from GEN-Africa, Margarita Zethelius from CASA, Michiyo Furuhashi from GENOA, Linda Joseph and Lee Davies from ENA and ENC, Ulrike Schimmel from GEN-Europe and Nick Joyce from NextGEN, who collected and collated the reports from their respective regions and networks. Also, special thanks go to Katie Kukolj, new treasurer of GEN-International, for putting together the financial reports, and to Simona Rossi, GEN-International intern, who aligned the materials meticulously into this common design.

As we all recognise how much more fun it is to dance with the forces of life and into the possibility of collective wisdom, may this report bring you, the reader, inspiration and joy.

In community,
Kosha Joubert

“My destination is no longer a place, rather a new way of seeing.”
Marcel Proust



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GLOBAL DIMENSION

GEN-International



Findhorn Foundation Community, Scotland

Low carbon footprint! A 50-year old community and education centre

Legal Entity: Registered Charity - Reg. Number SC043796

President of the Board: Kosha Anja Joubert

Members of the Board:

Address: The Park, Forres Morayshire, IV36 3TZ, Scotland, UK

Telephone: +44 1309692451

Web page: <http://gen.ecovillage.org/>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Global-Ecovillage-Network/191783174338297>

E-mail: welcome@ecovillage.org, office@ecovillage.org

INTRODUCTION

ORGANISATION

The Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) was founded in 1995 to support human communities that sustain and regenerate their social and natural environments.

Ecovillages are rural or urban, intentional or traditional communities with vibrant social structures, vastly diverse, yet united in their actions towards low-impact, high-quality lifestyles.

Ecovillages are consciously designed through local participatory processes, integrating the four dimensions of sustainability (ecology, economy, the social and the cultural).

One of the most powerful resources available to humanity is the longing of citizens to become part of the solution instead of feeling that they are contributing to the problem.

GEN helps unleash this potential by showcasing pathways, solutions and best-practice examples for citizens and local communities to design their own future.

GEN builds bridges between policy-makers, academics, entrepreneurs and sustainable community networks across the globe in order to develop strategies for a global transition to resilient communities and cultures.

Vision

The Global Ecovillage Network envisions a world of empowered citizens and communities, designing and implementing their own pathways to a sustainable future, and building bridges of hope and international solidarity.

Mission

As a solution-based, multi-stakeholder alliance, GEN provides information, tools, examples and global representation to the expanding network of those dedicated to developing and demonstrating sustainability principles and practices in their lifestyles and communities around the world.

Goals

1. To advance the education of individuals from all walks of life by sharing the experience and best practices gained from the networks of ecovillages and sustainable communities worldwide.
2. To advance human rights, conflict resolution and reconciliation by empowering local communities globally while promoting a culture of mutual acceptance and respect, effective communications, and cross-cultural outreach.
3. To advance environmental protection globally by serving as a think tank, incubator, international partner organization and catalyst for projects that expedite the shift to sustainable

and resilient lifestyles.

4. To advance active citizenship and community development by coordinating the activities of regional ecovillage networks and reaching out to wider society and policy makers in order to accelerate the transition to sustainable living.

Main Activities

- To provide information, tools, examples and representation to the expanding networks of those dedicated to developing and demonstrating sustainability principles and practices in their lifestyles and communities around the world
- To co-ordinate the activities of a number of regional ecovillage networks around the world
- To serve as an incubator and platform for international projects and initiatives those accelerate the shift to sustainable lifestyles and more resilient societies.

Ecovillage Definition

An ecovillage is an intentional or traditional community using local participatory processes to holistically integrate ecological, economic, social, and cultural dimensions of sustainability in order to regenerate social and natural environments.

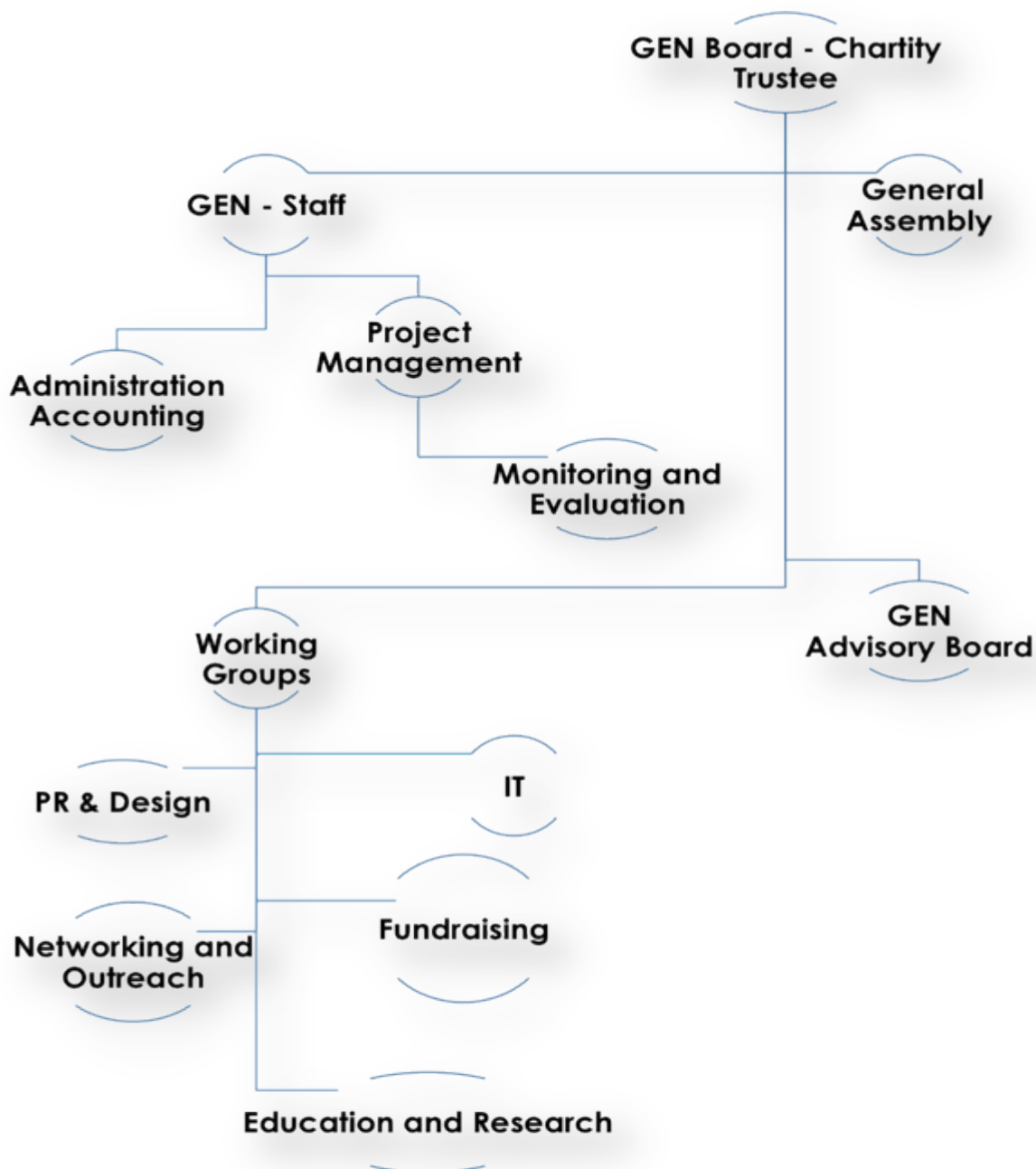


The diagram illustrates the structure and network of GEN (Global Ecovillage Network). At the center is a circular structure representing GEN, divided into five main functional areas: **FUNDRAISING** (with sub-label 'prog Dev & Resourcing'), **COMMUNICATIONS & DESIGN**, **EDUCATION & RESEARCH**, **IT SERVICES**, and **NETWORKING & OUTREACH**. Inside this circle, concentric rings represent the organizational hierarchy: **Board** (outermost), **Staff**, **General Assembly**, **Steering Group**, and **Internal Communication**.

Surrounding the central GEN structure are five regional and partner networks, each connected by a double-headed orange arrow:

- GLOBAL ECOVILLAGE NETWORK Oceania & Asia** (top left, with butterfly icons)
- Global Ecovillage Network AFRICA** (top right, with a map of Africa and butterfly icons)
- Global Ecovillage Network europe** (middle right, with a butterfly icon)
- NEXT GEN** (bottom right, with a butterfly icon)
- ENEA** (bottom left, with a globe icon)
- CASA** (bottom left, with a gear icon)

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2



STRATEGIC GOALS AND TARGETS

Strategic Goals

1. Increase the number and visibility of grassroots actions and ecovillage projects that are linked to GEN (e.g. as members, on interactive maps, through newsletters and conferences)
2. Increase the number of individuals who support GEN (e.g. GEN-Ambassadors, Friends of GEN, GEN Volunteers, GEN Staff, etc.)
3. Share best practice and showcase the solutions implemented by ecovillage projects on the ground
4. Offer pathways to sustainability (e.g. Ecovillage Transition) that are easy to implement and further develop education and programs that support this
5. Create inspirational meetings and conferences to promote sustainable lifestyles and resilience worldwide
6. Raise the profile of GEN internationally through pro-active political influencing (e.g. governments, AU, EU, UN)
7. Build and strengthen strategic alliances with like-minded governmental and civil society organisations and socially responsible corporations
8. Strengthen the organizational and financial base of GEN in order to adequately fund its activities and staff

Targets

1. Ecovillage Projects:

- a. For GEN to link to 20.000 ecovillages, villages and communities through our regional, thematic and national networks by 2020. (Current status estimated: 10.000)
- b. For 5.000 ecovillage projects (including ecovillage networks) to be signed up to GEN's project database/ interactive maps by 2020. (Current status estimated: 1.000)
- c. To link at least one ecovillage project to GEN in at least 160 UN-member states by 2020. (Current status estimated: 110)
- d. For GEN to have a membership of 60 legally registered national ecovillage networks by 2020. (Current status estimated: x existing and x legally incorporated distinguish per region)

2. Individual Supporters:

- a. For 50.000 individual email addresses to receive the GEN-newsletter by 2020. (Current status: 13.000)
- b. To have donations adding up to at least 500.000 € through Friends of GEN and Supportive Members of GEN by 2020

3. Shared Solutions:



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- a. To have 5000 solutions entered into the GEN Solution Library by 2020

4. Education and Transition:

- a. In collaboration with Gaia Education to educate at least 10.000 persons annually in its GEN Global Education Program (4-week Ecovillage Design Education (EDE) courses, 5-day Ecovillage Incubator courses, 2-day GEN-Introduction courses, 5-day GEN Green Solutions and 5-day Social Solutions courses around the world by 2020.
- b. To set up a GEN-Consultancy, bringing together a list of 100 distinguished experts from all over the world by 2020.

5. Events and Conferences:

- a. That GEN-International and at least 4 of our Continental Networks host an annual Conferences each by 2020

6. Political Outreach:

- a. That GEN initiates and continuously pushes agenda issues for global transition to resilience in at least 3 UN organizations, within the EC/EP, and in 5 other IGOs of the Global South by 2018.

7. Alliances:

- a. That GEN showcases the logos of at least 50 organisations that are in some form of alliance or partnership with GEN on its international website by 2020
- b. The GEN has built at least 25 alliances with like-minded organisations with signed MOU or Partnership Agreement by 2020

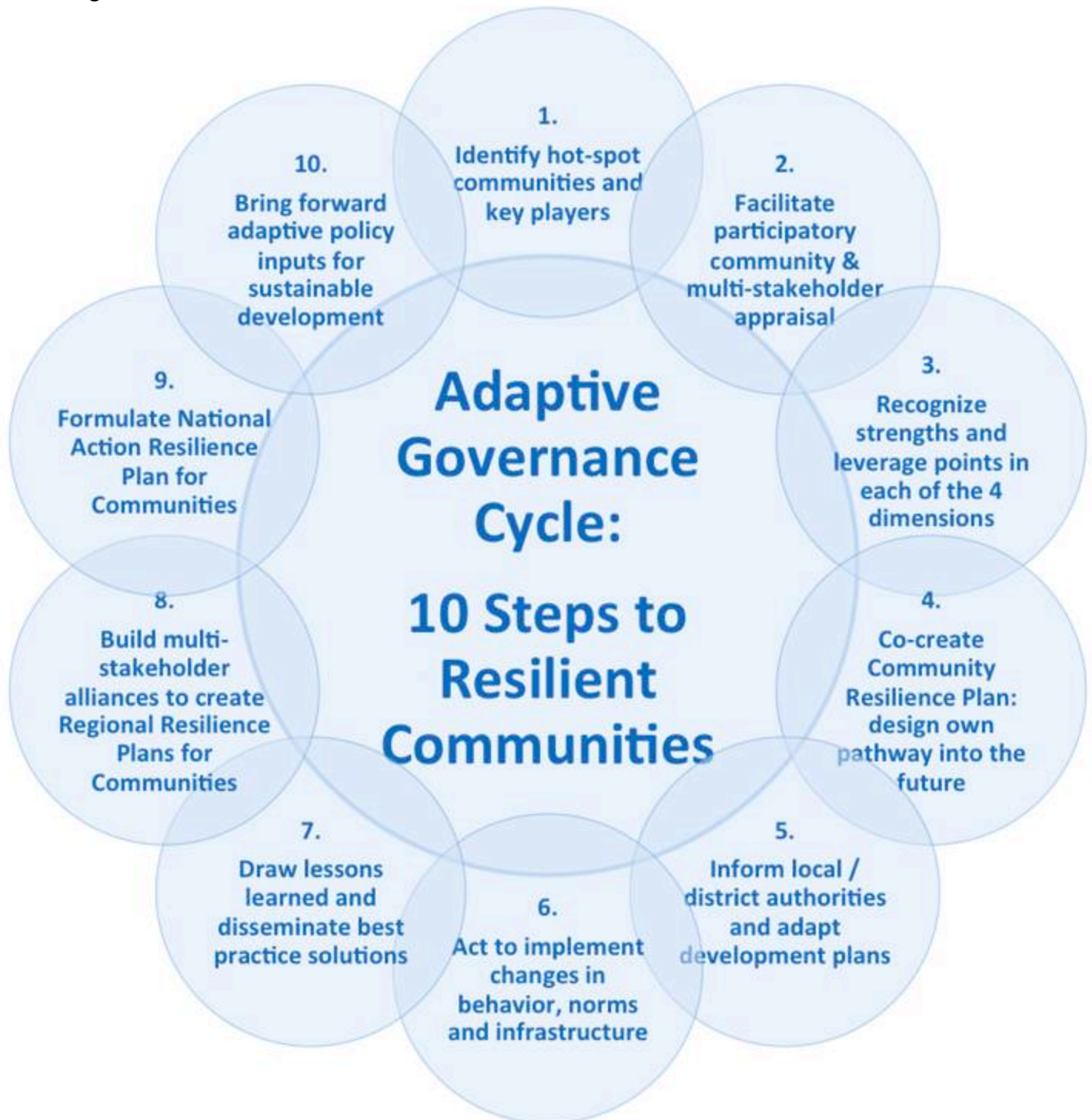
8. Financial Abundance:

- a. That GEN International as the global coordinating umbrella is able to channel 3 000 000 EUR of support annually to regional and national networks and their initiatives by 2020.
- b. 10 full time staff within 2020.



GEN Adaptive Governance Cycle: 10 Steps to Resilient communities

This is a first draft of the process describing how ecovillage approaches on the ground can influence national policies and hopefully inspire more countries to follow the examples of Senegal and Thailand in the future.



FRIENDS OF GEN CAMPAIGN



Main Aim of the campaign:

Unleashing support for the Global Ecovillage Network - GEN and its mission through ONE-OFF donations.

Our Friends of GEN Pilot campaign will be on-line on Indiegogo from 15th of April 2014.

More info at:

<http://gen.ecovillage.org/index.php/donate.html>

Take Action:

Subscribe to our newsletter at:

<http://gen.ecovillage.org/index.php/newsletter.html>

Download Friends Of GEN flyer at:

http://ecovillage.org/download/Friends_of_Gen.pdf



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More Information: LINK TO RESOURCES

Through this link you will be able to download GEN-International official documents like:

- GEN-International Constitution
http://ecovillage.org/download/Constitution_GEN_International.pdf
- GEN-International Bylaws
http://ecovillage.org/download/GEN_International_Bylaws.pdf
- GEN Vision Mission
http://ecovillage.org/download/GEN_Vision_Mission_Strategic_Goals.pdf
- GEN International Report
http://ecovillage.org/download/GEN_report_2013.pdf

Over than the links indicated above new resources can be downloaded from a specific section of the GEN-International website:

<http://gen.ecovillage.org/index.php/about-gen/about-us-downloads.html>

Through this link you will have access to GEN-International Solution Library

<http://solution.ecovillage.org/>

Through this link you will have access to GEN-International flyers

<http://gen.ecovillage.org/images/stories/pdf/genflyer.pdf>

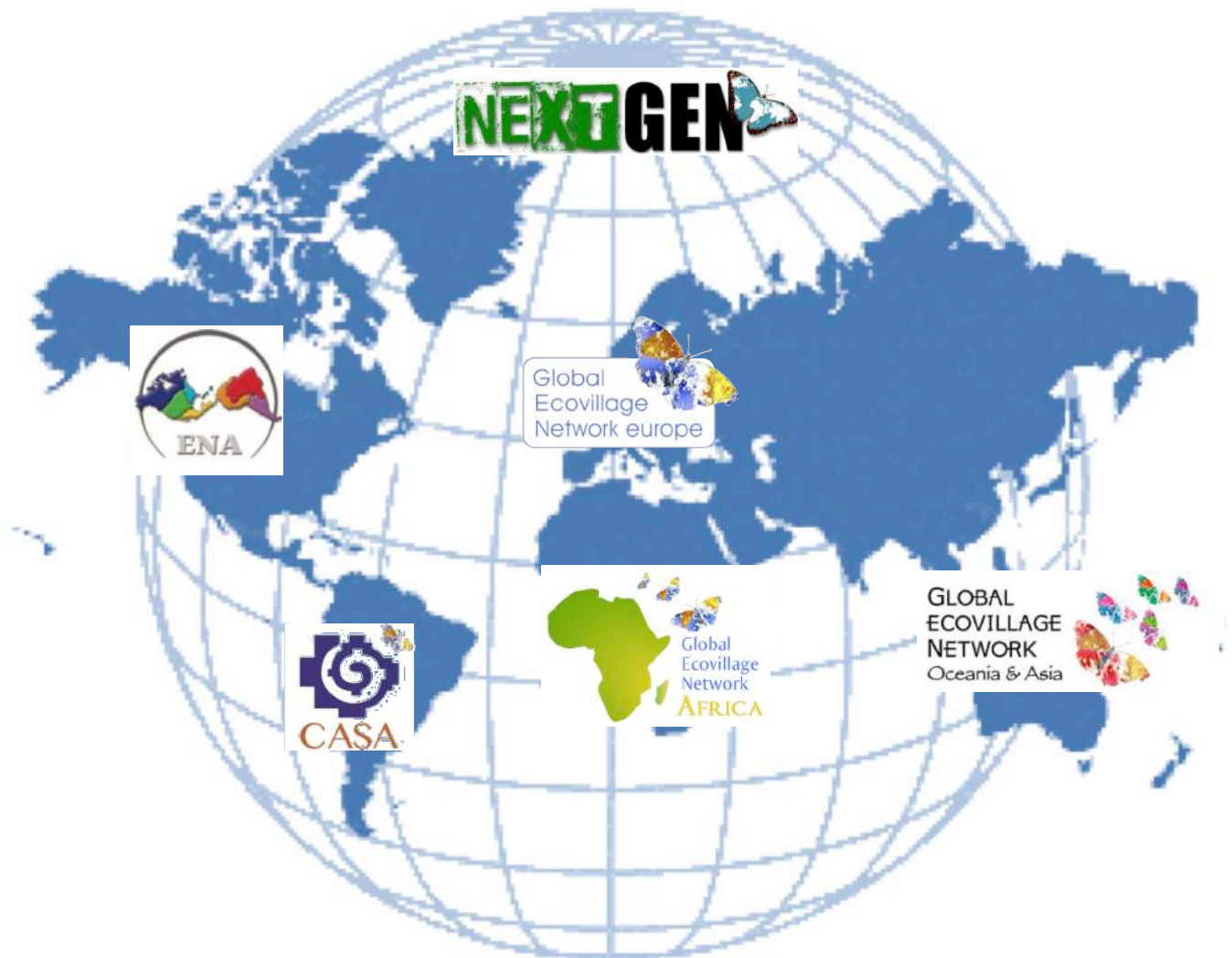


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GLOBAL DIMENSION

Reports from the Regions



GEN-Africa Annual Report ° 2013



Otepic Project, Kenya
Community permaculture gardens for food security

Legal Entity: Work in progress

President of the Board: Dr. Ousmane Pame

Members of the Board: Mugove Nyika, Mohamed Mongy, Rosemary Mbone Enie, Dr. Karambu Ringera

Executive Director: Lua Bashala

Web page: <http://www.gen-africa.org/>

Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/genafricanetwork?fref=pb&hc_location=profile_browser

E-mail: contact@gen-africa.org

INTRODUCTION

ORGANISATION

Born on the fertile banks of the Nile River in December 2002, GEN Africa is now a promising young baobab tree spreading its roots in the rich ground of African wisdom, taking its vital force from ancestral community values and the commitment of a new generation of leaders.

All over Africa, the growth of this young sturdy baobab is celebrated with joy and hope; with the hope it will be a peaceful sanctuary for the spirits of the continent; that its fruit will bring abundance and harmony.

The vitality of GEN Africa is a source of genuine hope for a better Africa in a better world. Everywhere in Africa communities are coming together, working towards the goal of building a safer, more just and harmonious world for all species on our planet. In some parts of Africa, some of the GEN Africa family members are risking their lives on a daily basis to make this dream come true.

This annual report is a journey through the fantastic experiences, projects of communities genuinely caring for the earth and the future of humanity.

Journey to Senegal

In February, 2013, Jane Rasbash of the Gaia Education Board, Kosha Joubert, President of GEN-International and Advisory Board GEN-Africa, and Ousmane Pame, President of GEN-Africa, travelled to Senegal to witness and support the progress of the ecovillage implementation policy - and to plan a Global Ecovillage Summit in Senegal in 2014. Senegal, is the first country to use ecovillage strategies for sustainable development, with a Government Agency for Ecovillages dedicated to transitioning 14 000 traditional villages to ecovillages!



The invitation to Senegal for Gaia Education and GEN (the Global Ecovillage Network) was done by Senegalese NGO, the Foundation Aidara Cherif, which is keen to take this further with ambitious plans for pilot projects of five large ecovillages in Senegal, Gambia and Guinea-Bissau, including three in the Southern region of Casamance

which has long been troubled with civil unrest. The Foundation Aidara Cherif is a Sufi organisation that embraces engaged spirituality with a mission to eradicate poverty and promote inter-faith dialogue in Africa. The Foundation and Government officials are keen to link with GEN and Gaia Education as large international Ecovillage Organisations that have global representation and are backed by UN status.

The 3 representatives travelled with a diverse group of Senegalese government officials, civil society activists, university professors and Sufi spiritual leaders. They all have one thing in common which is believing in the power of ecovillage as a model for transition. They arrived to Mbakombel, one of the pilot projects of the Senegalese ecovillage programme. It is an amazing interweaving of rural and cosmopolitan, traditional and innovative, top-down and bottom-up empowerment! There, Young men introduced them to the technicalities of solar panel systems and showed streetlights and lighting in their huts. Women introduced them proudly to the various benefits of low impact cooking technology, including clay stoves that use 50% less fuel, biogas from animal manure and solar ovens. There were also reforestation programs, climate smart farming in community gardens, green architecture experiments incorporating styles from Mali and Burkina Faso, new breeds of local chicken, and a computer room with internet access.

In Dakar, they were well received by the Minister for Land Management and local government, the Ministry of Ecology and Protection of Nature (Local Authorities); the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment, who all support ecovillage for sustainable development. The Agriculture Ministry indicated that they would put their common request for a Global Ecovillage Summit in Senegal in 2014 on the Government-backed conference agenda. At the Ministry of Environment, they were honored to each plant a Mango tree in their garden in the name of GEN and Gaia Education! There was a clear wish for the EDE curriculum to be adapted to the African context and the Foundation would like to work with GEN and Gaia Education towards this end.

They visited the launch of an eco-commune in Parcelles Assainies, an urban region of the city. This event was organized by “Geum sa Gokh” youth (“believe in your home land”). The Senior State Minister, Mbaye Ndiaye, and representatives of other local authorities also attended the ceremony.

The journey then took them to Dakar's oldest high school, Lycée Lamine Guèye, where students performed a inspiring ballet dedicated to the preservation of African cultures and environments.

Local TV, radio channels and newspapers echoed the inspiring events of the visit in French, Wolof and Pulaar. As a result of the inspiring groundwork and press coverage, the Senegalese diaspora, religious guides and many grassroots communities have expressed their willingness to join GENSEN, the Senegal Ecovillage Network.

SENEGAL PROJECTS

Ecovillage Design Education for kids

In Dakar, most people are now cut off from their traditional roots and have lost contact with their natural and cultural environments. In fact, very few people in the capital city are aware of the moon cycles, can name two or medicinal plants their grand-

parents would use decades ago or educate their kids through riddles, the stories of Bouki and Leuk or the legends of Mali Sadio or Samba Gueladio. To break this cycle of cultural impoverishment and help reconnect young African kids with their natural environment, GEN Africa in partnership with SOS Environment NGO and Dakar Poucinet Nursery School, started a major educational programme in May 2013.



Between 8 and 11 of May, sixty-four schoolchildren aged 5-7 left the Dakar with a team of 26 for Ngaparou a small fabulous ecovillage on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean. Ngaparou is a traditional fishing village, which hosts also headquarters of Gen Africa. During their EDE, the kids had memorable times interacting with local traditional chiefs, listening to traditional stories that shaped the characters of their ancestors, learning how to make seaweed bread, look after plants, managing domestic waste.



The first 'by Women for Women' EDE

The EDE took place at Umphakatsi Peace Ecovillage, situated in Mpumalanga Province, South Africa from the 28th April until the 25th May. This course had the aim of bringing together women in a region of our world that experience some of the highest numbers of gender based violence including rape. Experiences of sexual abuse are a part of what inhibits women's natural leadership in their communities. Together, they created a safe environment for all of us to share our experiences



and support each other in a process of healing and empowerment. The EDE paved the way for 'The River of Life Project. There were 20 women participants in attendance for the four-week course, ranging in age from the eldest: 55, to 20. The majority of the participants were South African women from rural or township communities, others also came from Senegal, Ghana, Namibia and Zimbabwe. The first and second week wove together both the social and worldview dimensions. GEN International President, Kosha Anja Joubert, and GEN Africa Vice President, Lua Bashala-Kekana, co-facilitated the sessions together, with input from the participants.

The ICSA Conference

In June 2013 from the 26th Bitshilualua (Lua) Bashala together with GEN International President Kosha Anja Joubert attended the International Communal Studies Associations' Conference (ICSA), Communal Pathways to Sustainable Living. Held at Findhorn in Scotland. They spoke about the emergence and necessity of the African Global Ecovillage Network and the various existing projects and communities on the ground taking part in the network.

Youth Skills Training Workshop

The youth skills training workshop which took place at Ehlanzeni Ecovillage in Mpumalanga Province in South Africa, was a direct outcome of the EDE for Women by Women. The youth skills training workshop addressed the issue of unemployment amongst the population of the region connected to the two GEN Member ecovillages and also directly targeted at the youth and women of the surrounding villages, whom had been supportive with the two ecovillage projects. This training was viewed as part of phase two of the EDE, directly aiming to bring in practical skills that once learned can become a source of sustainable income for the families living on and near the ecovillages. Lush Cosmetics, who funded the EDE together with Heidehof Stiftung, also supported in funding this training. They are supporting in the set up of a cooperative for the community and have supported the community in purchasing an oil press for the production of Organic Marula oil, used in cosmetics and used by local women for millennia.

GEN-AFRICA STRATEGY DOCUMENT REVISION

GEN-Africa revisited its strategic document that was developed in Egypt, December 2012. A committee was designated to redefine the values of the network. They held an elaborate participatory process as indicated in the scheme. They managed to hold more than 70 interviews with the participants of the conference. The outcomes were presented in the General Assembly where they held another round of feedback on the wording and the final output.'

GEN-Africa values were formalized as follows:



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COMMUNAL SOLIDARITY: I am because we are “The Spirit of Ubuntu”

SHARING IN ABUNDANCE our wealth, richness and happiness “Living the Teranga”

HOLISTIC PEACE; from inner peace to world peace - “GEN-Africa is a space for Salam/Selam”

SPIRITUAL HEALING of the past for people and mother earth “Sangoma's power & Asonyesu's wisdom”

RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY; Regenerating ecosystems for future generations of all species “Re-rooting the Baobab”

SELF- RELIENCE & INDEPENDENCE in our choices, decisions and actions - “Rising Uhuru's flag”

EQUALITY & FAIRNESS; Reaching out to marginalized, being the voice of the voiceless “Bantamba Gathering”

UNITY IN DIVERSITY; Celebrating Africa's diverse natural & cultural heritage “Weaving the Djembe beat and the Kora melody”.

*Ubuntu =a Nguni Bantu term (literally, "human-ness") roughly translating to "human kindness." The notion represents the Southern African notion of the sense community

*Teranga = Unconditional hospitality in Wolof

*Selam or Salam=Holistic peace in Arabic and in Amharic

*Sangoma=Traditional spiritual healers in Southern Africa

*Asonyesu = Ancestral sacred groves in Twi & Akaan (Ghana)

*Uhuru = Liberty & independence in Swahili

*Batamba = Community gathering under the trees in The Gambia particularly during Ramadan for feeding the needy during Ramadan.

Information technology report

During the strategy workshop in gen Africa conference in Kenya the gen Africa IT team through participatory exercise added a chapter of communication and information technology to the themes of gen Africa strategy including team selection, background, main goal and specific objectives.

Gen Africa IT team appreciated the work already done on Gen Africa web site but they recommended to migrate to gen sites with its new functionalities and links to projects in other gen networks.

Gen Africa IT team launched an official face book in the beginning of November 2014. The face book page name is Global ecovillage network - Africa. The face book page was announced on gen Africa



website and also included the announcement of gen Africa conference in Kenya. In the first month it reached 400 likes, after the conference it jumped to 600+ likes and currently we are approaching 800 likes. The face book insights show that likes are surprising almost 100% gender balanced. The IT team and Gen Africa council administer the page. The page has been very interactive announcing related projects, opportunities, ideas and events. We regularly receive positive feedback from our fans that are not only from Africa but from other continents as well. Below are graphs showing the face book insights of our page.



The International 100 Women's Earth & Climate Summit, September

18 –21, 2013 in New York, USA, brought together 100 global women leaders including grassroots activists, economists, scientists, businesswomen, Indigenous leaders, policy-makers, faith leaders, culture shapers for 3.5 days to help further a women's climate action campaign agenda. Amongst the 100 women was Ms. Kosha Joubert, President, GEN International and Ms. Rosemary Olive Mbone Enie Council Member GEN Africa / Steering Committee member of the IWECI /International Advisory Board Member of the Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN) International (www.iweci.org) (www.wecaninternational.org).

International cooperation

August 2013, Global Ecovillage Network / Africa, Global Ecovillage Network International, Gaia Education, the Asomsilp Insitute and Ecovillage Transition Asia signed an MOU in Bangkok (Thailand) to “establish cooperative relations among all the Parties in academic, scientific, technological, social and cultural areas relating to sustainable development that will contribute to their respective institutional development with an aim to increase their training and circulation



capacity in these areas whilst serving the community. The parties were invited to attend Ecovillage Festival at Pa Tung Temple in Chiang Mai (North of Thailand) where a highly instructive and inspiring seminar on Ecovillages and the Global crisis took place, combined with rich and diversified exhibition and cultural events. GEN Africa wishes to take this opportunity to express its deep gratitude to all its Thai and International partners. Special thanks to Pracha Hutunuwatr chairman of ETA, the Governor of Thai for their vision, generous and warm hospitality.

Global Ecovillage Network-Africa Second Annual Conference **Kenya, Thika 10th -14th December 2013**

GEN - Global Ecovillage Network - Africa held its second annual conference with 120 delegates from 20 African countries, this year the hosting country in Kenya. The conference saw many examples of bottom-up initiatives, to empower women, fight poverty, protect nature, give perspectives for children and youth in villages and cities, from South Africa to Egypt, from Ghana to



Ethiopia, and of course from D.R. Congo. A large focus of the GEN Africa Conference was the Ecovillage Design Education -EDE. Being prepared in different countries, it teaches the basic skills of creating sustainability in all dimensions needed.

In the conference, GEN Africa was recognizing and celebrating each other by witnessing daily presentations with all six senses.

Ousmane Pame, GEN Africa president and mayor of the eco-town Guéde Chantier (North of Senegal): "We are creating a strong and abundant network of communities that supports real transformation on the ground." "That would be 14000 villages, and for our country it would bring great improvement," says mayor of the eco-town Guéde Chantier (7000 inhabitants).

Philip Munyasia from, coming from a challenging childhood in Kitale he successfully founded OTEPIC that has taught over 2000 farmers organic farming. Now OTEPIC is establishing a Permaculture farm and a "solarvillage".

Visolela Namises from Namibia-accepted her place within the advisory council of GEN-Africa. The council took Mama Visolela's request of having Awards on board and they organized a beautiful Award Ceremony acknowledging individuals and projects with a certificate and a gift.

Niveen Adel from Egypt as a keeper of heritage sites in Egypt and an Architect she also contributed her energy to make an amazing website known as the solution library

possible for the Global Ecovillage Network. Participants of the conference spent an entire morning inputting their solutions.

In its post 2013 GA meeting, the Council made two important appointments:

- Lua of GEN Congo as CEO of the GEN Africa
- And Dr. Karumba as vice President

These new appointments will surely make a huge difference in the management and functioning of GEN Africa

2014 Global Summit

One of the major projects of GEN Africa in 2014 is the organisation of the Global Ecovillage Summit in Dakar. Over 400 guests are expected to attend this world Event: Government Ministers and senior representatives from different parts of Africa and the world, Ambassadors, Ecovillages activists, permaculture project designers, peace builders etc. will attend the Summit.

The Government of Senegal is, at its highest level, committed to make the Global Summit a major turning point in the development of ecovillages in the world. The President of the Republic of Senegal, Macky Sall, will preside the opening of the Summit

Council of sustainable Settlements of America - CASA Annual Report ° 2013



Tacotal, Costa Rica

Using many different seed varieties increases food security

Legal Entity: In process of constitution of CASA Association in Colombia
Representatives (President) of the Board: Leticia Rigatti and Margarita O. Zethelius (Holger Hieronimi)

Active Members of the Board:

Guilherme Schneider y Cristhy Mattos - BRASIL, Rosa Helena – COSTA RICA, Margarita Olarte, Jorge Calero – COLOMBIA, Gustavo Lerner, Jaime March - CHILE, Holger Hieronimi, Guillermina Garcia - MEXICO, Paulina Avila - ARGENTINA, Leticia Rigatti, Ryan Luckey CASA ECO-CARAVANS, Alberto Ruz- Elder, Lucia Betagazone – Enlace GEN/ENA, Penelope Baquero – North South Bridge.

Web page:

www.casacontinental.org/www.casa.ecovillage.org

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ecocaldeas/?fref=ts>

E-mail:

Leticia Rigatti letirigatti@hotmail.com

Margarita O Zethelius margaritaozethelius@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

There is a lot of movement in Latin America and CASA is evolving inside this interesting dynamic. National CASAs are working and more CASAs are emerging. Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Brazil report the activation of bioregional “CASAs” inside the countries. The connection with other regions at GEN Europe and GEN Africa Conferences, have been great opportunity to exchange experiences and dream about projects of mutual strengthen (already with great results of mutual collaboration as the GEN Europe Conference video, and GEN Africa video coming soon, produced by CASA). Inspired by sociocracy to create an organic network, CASA is investing in gatherings to expand the network. Trough national and bioregional events, we are creating space to connect communities, organizations and people to walk towards sustainability.

We face several challenges such as: support on the ground/local initiatives, help with hands on process, strength programs of capacity building, as well as making the network stronger inside a big need in relation with good access to IT. We are looking forward to have more material in Spanish and to translate what we are developing in to other languages to share in platforms as the Solution Library. We are in the process of bringing the traditional wisdom with more participation of elders, and different types of communities, as well as encouraging the creation and support of strategies/platforms to facilitate the involvement of people, communities and organizations with the network.

ORGANIZATION

CASA is using/testing with Holocratic / Sociocratic systems to generate an horizontal organizational structure. Different National CASAs as Colombia and Chile report they are doing it as well. We are inspiring each other. Bioregional gatherings are increasing with the formation of CASAs, which is a sign of how the network grows organically. CASA Colombia was chosen to be on charge of the administrative aspects of CASA Continental, this role would rotate between CASAs.

The Continental Work Group of CASA (“Kitchen”) started 2013 year with Javiera Carrion (from Chile) and Carlos Rojas (from Colombia) as CASA representatives on GEN board. Actual representatives are: Leticia Rigatti (from Brazil) and Margarita O. Zethelius (from Colombia). The actual organization structure can be seen in the scheme:



The Global Ecovillage Network is a registered charity: SC043796 and has consultative status in the UN - ECOSOC.

WEB: [GEN International](#), [GEN Europe](#), [CASA](#), [GENOA](#), [GEN Africa](#), [Next GEN](#)

CASA BOARD: “Kitchen Group”



REPORT CASA Eco Chile

This year has been to strengthen and expand the network Eco Chile. Our gatherings are every 6 months. Last one, number tenth, has in Ecovillage Blue Star (video under construction <https://vimeo.com/83357813>). We continue writing newsletters, already going on 35! This work has shown perseverance and unity. This willingness to delivering newsletters and to share the cohesiveness of ecovillages has inspired us to create a book that is being edited (with





80 % complete), in the first phase it will be virtual.

We had the opportunity to work with the 1st Meeting Permaculture in Chile, which brought together over 1,000 people. Strategies as stands with activities, workshops, conferences, circles, seed exchanges and various interventions where used. Several projects of Eco Chile participated, this has been a point of inflection for tin the city to publicize the initiatives and also to create

the space to see us and share between ourselves.

As for projects for 2014, we decided to return to our roots, to our birth. We wanted to organize a 1st. Bioregional Network Meeting: "The Call of the Oak". This will be from 17 to 20 April in Ecovillage Estrella Azul, Caleu, Chile.

CASA Chile sends special greetings to CASA and GEN from small homes with big hearts!



REPORT CASA Central America

So far the country most active country of CASA Central America has been Costa Rica. Also some movement of the Network has bee done in Nicaragua, Guatemala and Puerto Rico.

CASA Costa Rica reports that the network has been active promoting annual national gatherings and periodic Minga/mutual work events. The host community or settlement offer home, develop projects and present a work program that all participants will nurture, work and provide feedback during the hands on work. The last meeting was an initiative of peri-urban artistic community called Siris Ecoart.

"This way of working has proved us to be real and viable because it rests in sweating, physically projects responding to real needs of the projects involved. We shared in an atmosphere of community, knowing that everyone will have a turn fro their community to receive the benefit of the visit and also space for dialogue and exchange of ideas and feelings which enriches the network in a very full way".



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REPORT CASA Colombia

The work is in close relationship with the dynamics of the vision council. During 2013 the “healing, ancestrally and grandmothers” councils worked hard in “Jornadas de sanación” (healing sessions) all around the country, mainly with traditional elders and medicine people. We feel the need to facilitated the connection of this group of elders to GEN Elders. The education council develop the program “La Ruta Natural” (The Natural Path), travelling together between different families ecovillages, are developing a program of learning by doing/living. We held the first EDE visiting three different ecovillages in contrasting regions, now looking forward to have an EDE with emphasis on grassroots. As CASA we organized the first Colombian Permaculture Network Gathering and help in the creation of several festivals and activities around traditional seeds, water and mother earth protection.



The Colombian network is working in the process of putting together proposals that can respond to the needs of: resettlement of displace communities, process of reconciliation and healing and alternatives to the great threatens of mega projects (e.g. Mining, seeds control) and climate change. The current work done in all GEN is a great opportunity to have very professional proposals and scale up the Ecovillages approach.



The “Call of the mountain” January 2014, was the “Call of the alliances” www.llamadodelamontana.blogspot.com We have around 20 elders from different traditional communities with so much wisdom and love and also asking for support in their work as Earth Keepers. Addressed to around 350 participants. IKWASHENDWNA is a global call that resonates with all; from the Sierra Nevada (4 indigenous communities) it translates Communion Agreements and Safekeepers of life, of our Mother Earth.

REPORT CASA Brazil



Excited during preparations for the 2013 national EcoVillage gathering, the Call of the Foot on the Earth, several regional gatherings took place beforehand, including in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro in April and June. These meetings helped to identify needs of the



communities, forwarding the work done to the national gathering. During the Call of the Foot on the Earth in Alto Paraiso de Goias, CASA Brasil met for several intense days, using the methodology of Dragon Dreaming. We dreamed together about the network we want to build, imagining an effective and affective articulation of regional networks in our vast country. In another DD activity we identified the purpose of CASA Brazil: "Articulate and strengthen networks and initiatives through creative actions caring for life, to build a world based on bio - socio- cultural integration." Following the dreams, we set goals to define some organizational structure and to focus on the mobilization of bioregional and local gatherings. Another goal is to map initiatives and connect through virtual platforms to enhance the flow of information, solutions and experiences. We gave a lot of attention to creating agreements and resolutions to maximize autonomy and legitimacy in the network, and also to build relationships with other networks. We expect another national gathering to keep working together in 2014.

REPORT CASA Mexico

CASA Mexico wants to share specially the results of the 13th Vision Council "Guardians of the Earth". As Tracy Barnett report "Nearly everyone among the almost 500 people present –representing dozens of different nations, tribes, traditions and peoples – would have agreed that the key ingredient to survival in the difficult times that face us all in the years ahead is extremely complex and at the same time profoundly simple. It all comes down to one word: love.



It was highlight how the participation inside CASA Mexico could be in multiple ways and the engagement with the outside will have strong components of arts and education. Important aspects of the participation in the network are: cyclic dynamic, inclusive process, giving and receiving, create strategies to involve, collective intelligence, family interacting with community, returning to ancestral knowledge, learning from

previous networks, moving from protest to proposal, strengthen training / trainers / leaders in Mexico, increase the documentation inside CASA, link bioregions to country, continent, and global network, support and promote current projects.

Bioregions that have already held meetings and are active during 2012/2013:

- Quintana Roo: Gathering Life Education March and June 2013. The most prominent work was the network between alternative communities and Traditional Maya peoples.
- Xalapa / Transition: Currently run weekly on Wednesdays making workshops, film events, etc.
- Chiapas: Meeting with 3 nodes within bioregion: Tuxtla Gutierrez, San Cristobal de las Casas, Palenque. Propelling regional economy, spiritual projects. Facebook: Casa Chiapas
- Queretaro: Meeting Life Education in August 2013 working with Transition Qro.
- Michoacán / Transition: Meeting in September 2013 and November 2013 on socio-economic, social and political criticism on drug situation are advancing solidarity economy projects such as College Green Tree.
- Center: 3 meetings from September 2013 through Tekios working on existing projects that need it and wanting to promote the solidary economy whit an alternative currency. Facebook: casa centro



Governance Mexico: bioregional organize ourselves for nodes to be established but an interdependent manner elected by its members in its internal configuration structure is proposed in 4 working groups but each node choose its way of operating, maintaining communication with kitchen HOUSE / CASA Mex / GEN

Other regions

In 2013 Ecuador had the 1st Vision Council, which is the prelude to the creation of CASA-Ecuador. This Vision Council was held in the south in Aguarongo Forest, and was attended by about 100 people from 11 provinces of the coast, mountains, and especially the Eastern cantons of Cuenca, Advertise, Sigsig, Gualaceo, and the inhabitants of Jadan; also had people from Brazil, Colombia, Chile, France, Italy, and Switzerland. They are taking the first steps to



implement the social methodology of the Vision Councils ("doing instead of worrying," proposing instead to criticizing and to build rather than destroy, this provides the basis and inspiration for building cultural - spiritual ecotopia in partnership with life in harmony with all, SUMAK KAWSAY).

CASA ECO-CARAVANS

In CASA we recognize the nomadic projects as an important part of our network. The EcoCaravans have hosted their own events and gatherings this year, including a space in the 3rd Argentinian Permaculture gathering in October, from which came the inspiration to open spaces for nomads to connect and share their stories and experiences in all of the national Ecovillage gatherings around Latin America.

Inspired by this, another EcoCaravan gathering took place after the Vision Council gathering in Mexico in November, bringing together 5 nomadic projects for an exchange and sharing in the Huehuecoyotl Ecovillage. This gathering was an opportunity for young nomadic projects to share with elders from the nomadic movement in Latin America. An article about this gathering was included in the last [GEN Newsletter](#).



The CASA Eco Caravan network **is focused in creating online tools to share their experiences and ideas**. Currently we communicate via an e-mail list and [Facebook page](#), also a video about the projects and a directory listing current nomadic projects in Latin America. A video about the nomadic network is been also produced to share an inspire people to the movement. [Click here](#) to watch.

A new Caravan project was recently proposed from CASA to GEN Africa as a first project "south to south": Create a nomadic project in Africa for 2014 building towards the Ecovillage Summit in Senegal. A working group between CASA ECO CARAVANAS and NEXT GEN Africa is meeting to work towards this project.

NEXT GEN - CASA

Look for this description in NEXT GEN Report.

ENA- ENC/ Ecovillage Network of the Americas & Ecovillage Network of Canada Annual Report ° 2013



Ecovillage at Ithaca, USA

Cohousing - socially rich lifestyles with low ecological impact

Legal Entity: Ecovillage Network of the Americas (ENA) - a 501(c)(3)
Charitable Organization, EIN: 62-1793769

Secretary/Treasurer: Linda Joseph

Address: 64001 County Road DD, Moffat, CO 81143 USA

Telephone: 719 588-7828

Web page: <http://gen-na.ecovillage.org/>

E-mail: linda@ecovillage.org

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GEN NORTH AMERICA TASK FORCE PROGRESS REPORT

ORGANIZATION – ENA Ecovillage Network of Americas



Giovanni Ciarlo serving from 2004 to present, and as president from 2009-11 is a founding member of ENA and represents the MesoAmerica Region on the ENA Council. He is a cofounder of Ecoaldea Huehuecoyotl in Tepoztlan, Mexico, an ecovillage based on principles of sustainability through the arts and ecology, and, the Red de Ecoaldeas de Mexico (Ecovillage Network of Mexico). Giovanni has served on the Board, and completed a curriculum development project for Gaia Education. He is currently working closely with GEN and Gaia Education as these organizations explore new approaches to partnering. Giovanni has also coordinated GEN's UN registrations, communications and events. Giovanni will be stepping down from the GEN Board, and UN roles in 2014, amidst

great gratitude from his many colleagues around the world, who know how much of his life Giovanni has devoted to the ecovillage movement, and still will!

Daniel Greenberg on the ENA Council representing the Eastern U.S., now also serves on the GEN Board, beginning in 2013. Daniel is the founder, and previously Executive Director, of Living Routes, a 3rd-party non-profit educational provider that partners with the University of Massachusetts to run study abroad programs based in "ecovillages". Daniel wrote his Ph.D. thesis on children and education within contemporary intentional communities, which brought him to over 30



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communities in the U.S. and then to Findhorn, where he spent a year working with children and families. Daniel is also a founding GEESE member of Gaia Education and currently chairs its Certification Committee. He lives near the Sirius Community in western Massachusetts with his wife, Monique Gauthier, and their two daughters, Simone and Pema. Daniel is currently developing Earth Deeds, and exploring partnership potentials with GEN and Gaia Education.

Leland (Lee) Davies joined the GEN international Board in 2013 as a third representative. He is also currently on the task force working to develop a new structure for GEN North America. He has been on the ENA Council since 1995 for many years including serving as Co-President. He has been on the Board of the Ecovillage Network of Canada also since its inception in 995 and was President for 10 years. He lives in a family Ecovillage called Tycoed in Uxbridge, Ontario with extended family. The project seeks to manage the environmentally protected land and create an orchard/forest garden based on permaculture principles. Lee has a doctoral degree in organization development and adult education from the University of Toronto. He is a Certified Human Resource Professional and a teacher of Qigong. He has worked to develop sustainability in his community through workshops, conferences and participatory events.



ENA Council & Staff

Many thanks for the ongoing service of ENA Council representatives and staff ... and all their work for GEN, ENA and CASA in 2013!

Alberto Ruz - Mobile rep, CASA

Arnold Ricarde - MesoAmerica, CASA

Daniel Greenberg - Eastern U.S., GEN Board, Gaia Education

Diana Leafe Christian - Eastern U.S., Ecovillages Newsletter online

Giovanni Ciarlo - MesoAmerica rep, GEN Board, Gaia Education, GEN/CASA
“bridge” person

Jeff Clearwater - Western U.S., VillageLab

Lois Arkin - Western U.S., Los Angeles Ecovillage / Urban Ecovillages

Lucia Battegazore - Southern South America, GEN Liaison, GEN/CASA “bridge” person

Pato (Carlos Gomez) - Northern South America, Eko-Habitat, Centro Artes Ecológicas

Penelope Baquero - Mobile rep, ENA “north”/CASA “bridge” person

Linda Joseph - Secretary/Treasurer, GEN Treasurer, GEN Liaison, GEN IS•IT Admin

Nick Joyce - NextGEN North America

Orlando Balbás - GEN IT, WebEx, e-mail and List serve support

PROJECTS

GEN Internet Technologies (GEN IT) – Americas

In early 2013, the GEN International and ENA regional websites were hacked. Sincere apologies to anyone visiting ENA's webpages as they were frozen for a time. GEN and ENA are now in process joining CASA and RIE, in moving and integrating web presence and regional data into GEN-Sites. All have development sites within GEN-Sites, while we construct and test available features and customize for regional purposes.

This work is taking place in collaboration with the other GEN Regions, through the regional Communication Liaison meetings with GEN IT and GEN Intl; and in regional IT Teams. Serving on and advising the Americas IT Teams, North and South, as they shaped up in 2013:

Linda Joseph, Lucia Battegazore, Margarita O Zethelius - GEN Liaisons; Orlando Balbas and Ra Gilanpour - ENA Technical; Jennifer Trujillo Obando - CASA Technical.

The GEN Intl. Technical Team provided ENA with an interim web space, to feature North American activities, events, projects, and postings on the reorganization process in North America. ENA publishes announcements received in network correspondence, and welcomes direct contributions.

Articles featured in the last quarter of 2013:

- Gaia University announcement of the upcoming orientation, starting 18 February 2014.
- Dancing Rabbit's Successful Local Currency - article previously published in the GEN Newsletter, PLUS an update provided at year-end, with their progress since.
- Links to November editions of the Ecovillage Newsletter by Diana Leafe Christian

and Global Ecovillage Network International Newsletter.

Featured - ENA sponsored projects

ENA provides a Donation page, where donors can contribute by PayPal, or print out a mail-in donor form. In addition to receiving donations for its own operations, ENA serves as fiscal sponsor for US donors to ENA, GEN, CASA, and NextGEN projects. Two other projects and partners in progress in 2013 and currently -

NextGEN North America news

NextGEN is a global alliance of emerging ecovillage ambassadors and sustainability educators. We are young adults committed to connecting youth with the ecovillage movement and empowering them to build the world of our generation. Ecovillage Ambassadors serve as knowledgeable points of contact in intentional communities around the globe, while our Sustainability Educators share their extensive knowledge in all aspects of communal regenerative living. We are a team of youth working for youth, igniting the power of the next generation, and inspiring the emergence of a new world.



VillageLab - a project selected for ENA funding in 2013, for concept and fundraising development.

“A distributed innovation laboratory and incubator based in existing ecovillages and other sustainable and regenerative communities and networks. VillageLab supports and develops projects generating leading-edge knowledge, practices and tools in all aspects of sustainable and regenerative living.”

Falco Memorial Fund, Damanhur

Receiving donations for the Memorial Fund for Damanhur Founder and Temples of Humankind Visionary - Falco, 1950-2013.



Formation of the GEN North America Task Force

The ENA Council spent early 2013 discussing the launch of reorganization for a North American Region of GEN, serving English and French speaking constituents. This is a counterpart to CASA, which is organizing the network for Spanish and Portuguese speaking Latin America, with their European partners.

In May 2013, the ENA Council passed resolutions, along with process guidance and goals to:

- “Constitute the full Task Force, reporting back to the ENA Council every two months.
- Develop a six month transition plan, including -
 - Determining the new North American Region Board structures
 - Determining and conducting a North American selection process to fill the new Board seats
 - And when completed, make recommendations for inaugural Board members, to the ENA Council for its blessing.”

An invitation to participate went out, and through nomination by self or others, a Task Force with 10 members began in July 2013. Members came from a variety of ecovillages, different areas of the U.S. and Canada, and represent different age groups. Most recently, representatives of the Fellowship for Intentional Communities (FIC), and a Valhalla Movement member have joined the Task Force.

Many thanks to all, and acknowledging Shayna Gladstone for her service on the Task Force in 2013. Those serving on the North America Task Force in 2014 are: Gabriela Sosa, Karl Steyaert, Linda Joseph, Nebesna Fortin, Nick Joyce, Ra Gilanpour, Tony Sirna, Russ Purvis and Lee Davies, Chair; joined in November by FIC representatives Laird Schaub and Marty Klaif, plus Laurence Miglialo, Valhalla.

With three organizational partners now working on reorganizing for North America, blessings for the recommended structures and board compositions proposed by the Task Force will be sought not only from ENA and Ecovillage Network of Canada (ENC), but now Fellowship for Intentional Communities as well, in so far as it effects or commits those organizations. Once blessed, the new governing representatives will complete any work they deem necessary to implement vision, mission, purposes, roles and responsibilities, bylaws, partnership activities, programs, etc. with ENA, ENC, FIC and Task Force folks assisting as needed and possible through the transition. When the new organizational configuration for North America is ready, it can apply officially to be acknowledged by GEN as a GEN Region, and assume the ongoing work for North America, in the Global Ecovillage Network.

Ecovillage Network of Canada (ENC) Regional Report, 2013

ENC AGM

It was an exceptional year for the Canadian Network. After ENC left ENA in 2012, two of our Board members agreed to help lead the Task Force in 2013, for reinvigoration of the N. American Network. A successful AGM (annual general meeting) was held at Whole Village in Ontario, which was well attended, including 2 GEN Trustees. And, the persistent efforts over a number of years paid off with the guest attendance of Laird Schaub, Executive Secretary of the Fellowship of Intentional Community (FIC) who agreed to consider in principle the concept of merger with the US and Canadian Networks of GEN, as soon as possible. In addition, our Canadian NextGEN representative and a GEN Board Trustee (residing in Canada) were able to attend the GEN International meeting in Europe where they were able to meet and participate with their colleagues from around the world.



ENC – ECOVILLAGE NETWORK OF CANADA

PROJECTS

As **Kakwa Ecovillage** begins its 8th year as a Cooperative Farm there's much to be grateful for as we reflect on 2013. Many visitors with a wide range of ages & ethnicities inspired us. Our gardens were very prolific as we were blessed with a good growing season. Although we only had 1 apprentice this year she was exceptional. And, our major project of expanding our 100-acre pasture/fields was begun with enthusiasm!

Alpacas at Kakwa



What a beautiful and great year for ecovillage **La Cité Écologique**! Objectives were set, met and overcome! 20 young adults spent part of their summer at *La Cité* to discover organic farming and ecovillage lifestyle. More than 1,500 people visited *La Cité*. More than 120

students from different schools were introduced to ecovillage lifestyle with a presentation and interactive workshops. In addition, 14 of our students and young adults visited 5 ecovillages across North America and Europe.

Tycoed Community Pond Hockey

Tycoed Family Ecovillage is a small ecovillage consisting of 3 families – 6 adults and two children - located on 39 acres of forest and wetlands outside the small community of Uxbridge Ontario north east of Toronto. In 2013, we continued our commitment to honoring the natural environment of this wonderful land. As a managed forest property, we continue to restore these natural forests and maintain the wetlands. We produce 10-year plans and lovingly work to achieve the environmental goals of these plans by planting a more diverse population of trees and beginning work on an orchard garden. We continue to work on creating businesses, which can sustain us. In 2013, we invested in a yoga studio for classes in that discipline and in Qigong – a Chinese exercise for health and wellness that stresses connection to the earth and the universe.



Valhalla Greenhouse Crew



In a single year the **Valhalla Movement** acquired 60 acres of land 20 minutes away from downtown Montreal - set up a dedicated team of a dozen full time members - established connections with Michael Reynolds and the Earthship crew a key resource in the planning of Valhalla's Ecological

Learning Centre - successfully established a online and offline presence with milestones of \$28,000 raised on Kickstarter for a Earthship greenhouse in 30 days - over 1,000 visitors a day on our website and 20,000 Facebook fans and has locked down numerous sponsors to the project with over \$65,000 of sponsorship money raised.

Whole Village Great Room

Whole Village Ecovillage

May be turning the corner in our eleventh year in terms of recruitment. We welcomed a new member and many new renters who have infused new spirit and energy into our community. Two cabins have been erected in order to house volunteers, B & B'ers and course participants. Our third annual permaculture design course created new bonds and collaboration among the inspired students. It was also a wonderful growing season on our 191-acre farm after two years of drought. Our orchards and edible forests provided new fruit for food security. We're so glad that we have planted over 16,000 trees since 2003 since we lost many older ones in a recent ice storm. We look forward to further development of our dream of sustainability in 2014 by installing PV panels to power our water system and increasing food production.



Yarrow Ecovillage

Has a current population of 52 (22 children). Construction began on 18 new units in Groundswell Cohousing. The farm was expanded into the South Field, with a new well, irrigation system and barn. Our farmers kept busy supplying two farmers' markets, a 50-member Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) food box program and a farm stand. Some milestones:



Yarrow Ecovillage

- February 16 - Consensus Decision-Making workshop
- April 27 & October 26 - Barn Dances in new barn
- September 24 - Strata title (condominium) for a total of 33 units in Groundswell Cohousing.
- Nov 9-10 - Bioengineering

Workshop hosted by Society of Ecological Restoration BC

GEN North America Task Force Progress Report, December 31, 2013

The following represents a brief summary that highlights the activities and current status of the GEN-NA Task Force. The first meeting for the North American network reorganization process took place on August 8, 2013. Introductions, discussion of the purpose and how to move forward were the key points covered. Three working groups were established to explore topics of:

1) Structure/Bylaws; 2) Council/ Board Development; 3) Location.

Preliminary discussion also addressed Task Force processes for communication and decision-making. Lee Davies, ENC offered to serve as Chair/coordinator for the Task Force, which agreed with appreciation.

The second meeting occurred on August 29, 2013. There was discussion of protocols for observers from the ENA Council, CASA bridge representatives, and ENC Board members if interested to attend. It was agreed that observers could attend but not speak unless they had sent agenda items to the Chair, or are invited to provide information of interest to the Task Force. The working groups were revised to the topics of:

- Board/Council Development - qualities and criteria - Russ Purvis convening;
- Decision-making Systems - review of Consensus, Sociocracy, Holocracy methods - Karl Steyaert convening;
- Location and Bylaws - Lee Davies convening.

The proposed approach was for sub-groups to meet and then report to the next meeting to be held in about 5 weeks. Following this meeting, several activities took place. The Hack Pad communication site was set up, providing reference docs and links, as well as Task Force document editing. The annual Ecovillage Network of Canada meeting took place at Whole Village in Caledon, Ontario. There representatives of the Task Force, ENA Council, GEN trustees, ecovillages and Laird Schaub the Executive Director of FIC, discussed the potential for a partnership between FIC and GEN North America. The discussions were very positive and indicated that the missions of the organizations were very close. The potential for better use of resources was highlighted. The idea of having two representatives from FIC and one person from the Valhalla Movement, representing another group of young people committed to sustainability, was recommended to the Task Force, which agreed! The ENC Board and ENA Council also embraced expansion of the Task Force and partnership potentials for the North America network. Both FIC and Valhalla accepted the invitation, with Laird Schaub and Marty Klaif for FIC, and Lawrence Miglialo, Valhalla, joining the Task Force by it's November 2013 meeting.

Another highlight of late summer was a two webinars offering by Diane Leaf Christian, who introduced the principles and practices of Sociocracy. These were well attended by ENA, CASA and Task Force folks, and despite technical difficulties, stimulated much

inspired discussion in our parallel exploration of decision-making systems for GEN and the Regions ever since.

The Board Development sub-group identified that their activity could not really start until vision, mission and goals are reviewed. The Decision-making Systems sub-group met on September 25, 2013 and had a very thoughtful discussion of the merits of Sociocracy and Holocracy as potential systems for the new North America network. For meetings of the Task Force all have agreed that consensus is appropriate and working well. On December 13th, the Decision-making Sub-Group turned its focus for next steps, to review of the latest information coming out on Holocracy. The importance of integrating organizational governance methods with functional work and communications has been noted by this group, and throughout GEN and it's other Regions. The Location and Bylaws sub-group did not formally meet.

At the meeting of the full Task Force on October 17, 2013, discussion centered on inviting FIC representatives, and a member of Valhalla to join the Task Force in November. With the new members welcomed, at the November 22, 2013 Task Force meeting, overviews of GEN, ENA and FIC were presented by Lee, Linda and Laird. Organizational information is being gathered and shared, for understanding of the existing structures, methods and activities of GEN, ENA, ENC, and FIC. For the start of the New Year, it was proposed that action groups be redefined, and established to address:

- Mission/Vision - with Lee convening, Laird and Karl;
- Decision-making Systems - with Karl convening, Ra, Linda, Tony, Lawrence and Marty;
- Program Mandates - with Russ convening, Ra, Linda, Nebesna, Laird and possibly Daniel Greenberg. It was agreed that these groups would begin their discussions and meetings, with the next full Task Force meeting scheduled in early January 2014.

GEN-Europe Annual Report ° 2013



Tamera, Portugal

Extending the growing season using the power of the sun

Legal Entity: Registered NGO

President of the Board: Macaco Tamerice

Members of the Board: Thomas Heuser, MomoJana Mohaupt, Alfonso Flaquer, and Zoltan Hoszu

Address: Ökodorf Sieben Linden 1, 38489 Poppau, Sachsen-Anhalt, Germany

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SUPPORT TO GEN-Africa

- GEN-Africa Conference
- Women for Women Ecovillage Design Education Course in South Africa
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INTRODUCTION

GEN Europe has continued to be a growing organisation also in 2013. New projects were started, new staff joined the teams and a new office was created. Meanwhile GEN Europe continues to support the now independent GEN Africa in different ways, also by acting as a fiscal sponsor for African projects. And GEN Europe supports the newly emerging GEN international office in Findhorn with office space and staff.

We find increased interest among the general public, the area of politics, research and academia for the work of GEN. New partnerships have been established and membership is growing.

Meanwhile, GEN Europe has been continuing its successful work, especially in education, through a number of projects. Our 2012 Grundtvig workshop, 'Ways to Sustainable Living' has been chosen as a best practice example by the National Agency and is now portrayed on their website.

EDUCATION

Global Ecovillage Network Conference



Three hundred participants from fifty-one countries came together for five days at Schweibentalp Centre of Unity, Switzerland, 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 eighteenth year of existence. Never have the international connections, mutual support, and love between the ecovillages of the Global South and the Global North been so visible and palpable.

The growing trust and friendship, developed over the years between the older ecovillages, has prepared the ground for the overwhelming enthusiasm of the large group of young committed people who now form NextGEN. 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.

Next GEN Gathering

Forty participants of the NextGEN meeting parallel to the conference in July 2013 shared their work and found ways to connect and to cooperate together. The presence and commitment of this highly motivated and educated younger generation were overwhelmingly inspiring. Presentations from Brazil, Canada, USA, Thailand, Zimbabwe and other countries showed the richness and purity of this youthful network, young people who easily see themselves as a planetary family, ready to help each other and the world. Ethan Hirsch-Tauber, who did a brilliant job coordinating NextGEN, turned thirty-five during the conference and handed over the coordinating role to three highly committed youth, selected through NextGEN's own Sociocratic process.



Cooperative Games and Circle Dances Workshop

24 participants from 17 different European countries met in the communal environment of the Ecovillage Sieben Linden in the north of Germany for a colorful experiment full of joy and high energy. People could dive into the rich repertoire of traditional dances from different regions and cultures as well as international community games plus bring in their own experiences in that area. So they acquired and increased both their knowledge about the subject plus their teaching skills for bringing the material back to their own backgrounds. The nonverbal approach was essential to break boundaries and create quickly growing interpersonal trust, friendship and warmth, which became the most valued outcome of this week for everyone involved.



PROJECTS

Ecovillages for Sustainable Rural Development

The 3-year project “Ecovillages for sustainable rural development” aimed at fostering ecovillages development as a more sustainable way of living in rural areas of the Baltic Sea Region. The project has now ended and the project outputs are available on the project [website](#): case studies, manuals and a handbook on ecovillages, the Ecovillage Road website as well as policy recommendations to local and national governments. GEN Europe as associate partner has sent representatives to project meetings and to the final conference in Lithuania in October 2013.



Ecovillage Road

The website ecovillageroad.eu is a tool to gather valuable knowledge created by the ecovillage movement around the Baltic Sea and to make it accessible to a broader public.



Models of Sustainable Living

On March 1st 2013 a new GEN-Europe project was launched which will be funded for two years by the “Umweltbundesamt”, the central German environmental protection agency. GEN-Europe and the [European Business Council for Sustainable Energy \(e5\)](#) will be working together on two thematic strands cooperatively which aim at mainstreaming the ecovillage approach and connecting actors in the field across existing institutions and society groups.

The first thematic strand is a two-year project carried out by GEN-Europe. It will present 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). Over the course of the project several workshops and events will be organised and accompanied by public relations, a newsletter and a new website in German. Also, GEN will be represented at several conferences and gatherings.

Sustainable Lifestyles through Commons Economy

The second thematic strand, held by e5, focuses on the field of the commons economy and brings together actors from ecovillages, the urban commons movement and business in Germany. Looking for potential technological, social or economic innovations and possibilities to mainstream these in the established economy is the main goal of this strand.

“Sustainable lifestyles through commons economy” is the project title under which four round tables with representatives from different fields will come together to work on the question how impulses from ecovillages can support the transition of society. The findings of these meetings will be involved in a concluding study on the economic potentials of the commons economy in ecovillages.



Ecovillage Design Education in Sieben Linden

Ecovillage Strategies for Community Mobilization (ALF)

OUTREACH

GEN Excellence Award 2013

For the first time, the Ecovillage Excellency Award was voted for publicly by all participants of the 2013 GEN Europe conference at the Schweibenalp Centre of Unity in Switzerland. With a large majority, the winner was NextGEN.

Parallel to the GEN conference, international representatives of NextGEN were present and participated in the birth of the international co-ordination team. One of them was Linda Kabaira from Zimbabwe, NextGEN Africa.



Solution Library

A new GEN Open Source IT Tool has gone online in June 2013: the Solution Library. With the help of 6 brilliant young women from the Islamic world (from Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Turkey and Palestine), support from our partners in Egypt (CultNat and the Bibliotheca Alexandria) GEN has developed this online access portal to sustainable solutions that now stands proudly with a first collection of 80 beautiful examples.

We expect the Solution Library to flower over the coming years, with participants from all over the globe feeding in their own best practices, while at the same time finding solutions that make a difference to their local situation. As a part of the project, 'Ecovillage Strategies for Community Mobilization' it was financially supported by the Anna Lindh Foundation.



Earth Day

In collaboration with the Earth Day Network, GEN invited ecovillages worldwide to invite neighbors 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.

Offers ranged from different kinds of awareness raising activities to setting up a local market, playing games, meaningful conversations, building community!

On this day, we all share a sense of mutual support and connection around the world in an hour of silence, reflection and meditation. To make visible our network, the locations were shown on our world map at 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 goes multi-lingual

For the first time, the GEN Europe website is now available in other languages than English. Through the project, 'Models of Sustainable Living', a translation into German has been realised in June. After the GEN Europe conference, enthusiastic volunteers translated the main articles into Polish, now available online. More translations are being worked on.



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GEN-Africa SUPPORT

GEN Africa Conference

GEN - Global Ecovillage Network - Africa holds its second conference with 120 delegates from 20 African countries, in Thika Kenya, 10th -14th December 2013.

The conference saw many examples of bottom-up initiatives, to empower women, fight poverty, protect nature, give perspectives for children and youth in villages and cities, from South Africa to Egypt, from Ghana to Ethiopia, and of course from D.R. Congo. A large focus of the GEN Africa Conference was the Ecovillage Design Education -EDE. Being prepared in different countries, it teaches the basic skills of creating sustainability in all dimensions needed.

Ousmane Pame, GEN Africa president of Senegal and mayor of the eco-town Guéde Chantier: "We are creating a strong and abundant network of communities that supports real transformation on the ground."

Women for Women: Ecovillage Design Education Course in South Africa

The first 'by Women for Women' EDE took place at Umphakatsi Peace Ecovillage, situated in Mpumalanga Province, South Africa. The EDE training for sustainability course was the second such course to be held in South Africa. The course began on the 30th April - two days after its initial starting date due to the challenges of the remoteness of the - until the 25th May 2013.

This course had the aim of bringing together women in a region of our world that has some of the highest numbers of rape. Experiences of sexual abuse are a part of what inhibits women's natural leadership in their communities. Together, we created a safe environment for all of us to share our experiences and support each other in a process of healing and empowerment.



The course was made possible by the financial support of Heidehof-Stiftung, Germany.

Ecovillage Design Education in Kenya

ORGANIZATION

Internal Organisation

Efforts continued to increase effectiveness in the teams, especially with the help of online software solutions. The further development of GEN's online office system GEN-

tool continued and the membership database was moved to the open source contacts and relations management system CiviCRM.

Membership

The GEN Europe membership has remained stable also in 2013, with numbers continuing to rise slowly. GEN Europe now counts 48 full members, 3 of which joined this year and a few more applications pending. The number of aspiring members (ecovillage initiatives) went up to 30, and GEN Europe counts 100 supportive members, individuals and organisations.

General Assembly

This year's General Assembly took place July 07 and July 13 at Schweibenalp, Switzerland.

The Assembly decided on the annual budget, a small change to the statutes and re-elected the council after hearing reports from the two offices in Sieben Linden and Findhorn as well as the council.



Next year's General Assembly will be held at ZEGG, Germany, from July 06-08, 2014 followed by the annual Global Ecovillage Network Conference.

Office Transition

The administration of the organisation has been moved from the Sieben Linden office and a new office at ZEGG, Germany installed. Amalia Eismar has been appointed as new administrator.



GENOA- Global Ecovillage Network of Asia & Oceania **Annual Report ° 2013**



Konohana Family, Japan

Creating innovative models for organic food growing

Legal Entity: Registered as Not-for Profit Organization (NPO) - Reg. Number 0801-05-005325

President of the Board: Michiyo Furuhashi

Members of the Board: Michiyo Furuhashi (President), John George (Treasury), Narumon Paiboonsittikun (Secretary), Chris Gibbings, and Kaitlynn Min

Address: 238-1 Nekozaawa, Fujinomiya, Shizuoka, 419-0302, JAPAN

Telephone: +81 544-66-0250

Web page: <http://genoa.ecovillage.org/>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/GENOceaniaAsia?fref=ts>

E-mail: office@genoa.ecovillage.org

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INTRODUCTION

From July 2012 to June 2013, GENOA has established some projects together with other organizations and surely made a firm step. Its focus has been on education for youth, women and people who live in rural areas. In this GENOA region, the ecovillage concept mainly applies for food security and the right livelihood rather than for an alternative way of life the Northern Ecovillage movement, (i.e. the industrialized countries).

Not-for-profit Organization in Japan.

GENOA also received media coverage for India and Bangladesh

ORGANIZATION

Acquisition of Legal Status

GENOA has finally registered as a not-for-profit organization in Japan on 7th of May 2013. Avoiding difficulties on paper work, Japanese members were registered as board members and non-Japanese members are listed as regular members. Since the fiscal year is from July 1st to June 30th, the first report has been submitted to the Japanese government. Along with the registration, GENOA opened a bank account in Japan.

Changes in GENOA Board Members

The following changes have been made with regard to board members:

- Chris Gibbings, Bellbunya Ecovillage, Australia is newly elected as a vice-president to replace John George, Thread, India. Since the Internet connection for Skype and WebEx is not well established around John's office in India, he has not been able to join any board meetings in 2011 or 2012. Also, he often works in rural areas, which do not have any Internet connections.
- Nguyen Sy Linh, Eco-eco, Vietnam has resigned from the board since moving to Australia for further study.
- Junya Sano has left from Konohana Family and resigned from the treasury position, Since the GENOA headquarters are in Japan, the board members suggested replacing the treasury position with someone in Japan. So, Atsuki Kuga, an associate professor of Rikkyo University has been elected as the new treasurer. He has been a member of GENOA-Japan and actively participated the international activities in the past.
- John George remains as a board member.

The Board members from July 1st, 2012 to June 30th, 2013 are:



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President	Michiyo Furuhashi (Konohana Family, Japan)
Vice-president	Chris Gibbings (Bellbunya Ecovillage, Australia)
Secretary	Narmon Paiboonsittkun (Ontai Ecovillage Project, Thailand)
Treasurer	Atsuki Kuga (Rikkyo University, Japan)
Board member	John George (Thread, India)

Board Operation

In 2013, GENOA held board meetings every three-month with Skype. In 2014, GENOA will form more sub-groups and discuss operational level issues that involve more members.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

GENOA's Annual General Meeting was held 29th of September to 1st of October 2012 at the Islander Center, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka. This was immediately after the international conference, "Inter-religious Dialogue for Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation" by the International Network of Engaged Buddhism (INEB) at the same location. Consequently four GENOA members were also able to participate in the conference.



The GENOA AGM included twelve members and four observers. They were from Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Japan, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, South Korea, and Thailand. Since Max Lindegger stepped down from the Australian country representative position in 2011, Chris Gibbings, a founder of Bellbunya Ecovillage in Australia accepted to take this role.



In past years the AGM format included reporting on activities/ initiatives of each country. However, in the AGM in 2012, we focused country reports on learning from the practices each country has experienced. Each country representative presented an overview of the current status of the Ecovillage/ Sustainable Living Movement in their

country, and based on the overview, good practices and challenges were identified. After the presentations, we summarized good practices and challenges in this region. Groups were then formed around similar issues to discuss how the challenges could be overcome. The good practices identified earlier offered potential inspiration for solutions.

We also reviewed the current vision and mission to be more reflective of the approach of the current members, and set the concrete objectives and action plans as below;

VISION:

We are the passionate, strong Asia-Oceania ecovillage network. Together we live, love, learn and manifest our deepest values and highest potentials. We transcend our fears and transform ourselves, and our world, for the holistic wellbeing of all creation

MISSION:

GENOA is creating a sustainable world on all levels (Spiritual, social, economic, environmental) by:

- Connecting international and national ecovillage networks, including intentional communities, ecological initiatives, indigenous and traditional networks
- Sharing information, learning, experiences and wisdom relevant to the region
- Promoting the traditional and innovative environments that bring forth insights and actions that support healing, self-discovery and sustainability.

Objectives and Action Plans in 2013	Status as of June 30 th , 2013
1. The creation of centers for sharing information and resources between ecovillages and similar initiatives in Oceania-Asia, plus public outreach.	This had not reached.
2. To strive to bring the existing and forming intentional communities, ecological initiatives and projects in the creation of a strong and healthy national networking .	Australia and India have actively worked on this.
3. To achieve financial/resources self-sufficiency that allows existing small and large ecovillage and similar initiatives to gain internal and	- Bangladesh project has been connected to the Scottish

external empowerment and independence by creating linkages based on social business.	government. - Orissa, India project got funded by the Australian agency.
4. Involve youth (education, empowerment, awareness raising)	Om Sunisa started to give the Youth Empowerment programs to the South Asian countries

ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

Education

Next GEN Ladakh has emerged

NextGEN Ladakh kicked off in mid 2012 with youth empowerment training. NextGEN Ladakh has been formed as separate entity from NextGEN India because of geographic isolation and cultural differences with central India. With independent representatives for NextGEN India and NextGEN Ladakh we will see greater diversity in the network.



Ecovillage Design Education in Orissa, India

The EDE course for 26 indigenous participants of Orissa was organized between 2nd Nov - 30th Nov 2012 at Siddharth village community school of ecology; the school is called Kakirigumma and it was one of the right ambiances for holding such program. The course emphasized more on the practical elements of the EDE taking into consideration of the background of the participants.



Ecovillage Design Education in Bangladesh

The 2nd Bangladesh EDE was conducted in Uttar Banishanta, Khulna, Bangladesh on 21 November - 10 December 2012. Uttar Banishanta was selected since this site is one of the most disaster torn areas and participants could get firsthand experience of being with the affected people. This time, 23 participants from different NGOs participated with the majority of them female.



NextGEN Empowerment Trainings in Thailand and Sri Lanka

OmSunisa had led the program for the Banpao Youth, Chiangmai Province, on 18th to 29th of April 2013. 20 youth has joined the program. Enough funds were raised for this project with the permaculture crowd funding site "We the Tree". Also, in June, two NextGEN workshops were held in Sri Lanka with a support of Trudy Juriansz, GEN-Sri Lanka representative.



In total, 73 youth participated, and it is getting a very strong youth movement.

"Spirit of Asia" by NextGEN-GENOA

NextGEN-GENOA planned the regional project called "Spirit of Asia" with collaboration with Gaia School, which is Thailand based voluntary organization. This project is a continental campaign towards valuing diversity of local wisdom, spirituality and

sustainable lifestyles for the youth in Asia to reconnect from their roots of culture, wisdom and spirituality. The project is led by Om Sunisa, the representative of NextGEN-GENOA. She is experienced in providing varied courses on alternative education: Ecovillage Design, Deep Ecology, Personal Empowerment, Socially Engaged Buddhism, Community Participatory Research, and Training of Trainers.

SOME REMARKABLE PROJECTS IN THIS REGION

Bangladesh

Bangladesh Association for Sustainable Development (BASD) and GEN-Bangladesh had been seeking for funds to offer an EDE for local NGO workers, educators and youth; however, they could not provide enough funds. GENOA supported the project financially in 2012, but this time BASD needed to seek for other possibilities. They could get funding for their project as a major climate change initiative in collaboration with the Scottish Government and Gaia Education.



Cambodia

This is 4th year plan for Ecovillage/ Permaculture Project in Takok Chray & Tien Communities. They have achieved tremendous progress in the water supply system, a demonstration farm and pilot home gardens, and the construction of community information centers. They have applied the bottom up approach, permaculture skills, and capacity building approach. As a result, the community members at Takok Charay and Tien are working towards improvements in their own daily lives but are also contributing to the health of the environment in which they live.



India

The Earth day celebration was conducted by Orissa Nari samaj on 22nd April 2013 to make the people be aware on climate change, traditional culture and bio-diversity of the local environment. It also enabled them to promote women leadership as well as women rights. The Purpose of the Earth day celebration is to build up this worldwide concept on earth. This celebration has enhanced their feeling of belongingness to the earth.



Next-GEN Annual Report ° 2013



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GLOBAL
ECOVILLAGE
NETWORK
Oceania & Asia



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INTRODUCTION

2013 has been a year of tremendous growth and evolution for NextGEN. We have held new elections and made serious strides in defining our purpose, developing our organizational and communication structures, and defining membership and roles. We have had two international meetings, as well as a number of regional gatherings, and many projects and activities are ongoing in each of the 5 regions.

ORGANIZATION

Restructuring/ Revisioning

Since the meeting in July, NextGEN has focused on strengthening its internal organization. International Representative Nick Joyce drafted a “Mission & Aims” outlining a new direction for NextGEN as well as member roles & responsibilities. A “Communications Strategy” was also outlined to empower Regional Activities and cohesive International Representation. After review and edits by International Representatives Lara Kastelic and Ethan Hirsh-Tauber these documents were brought forward to each of the five regions. While the implementation of these strategies is most evident in NextGEN North America, it created a new sense of connection and clarity between all regions.

Logo Design/Website

Ruben Verpalen from the Netherlands created a logo for NextGEN and was also part of a team to begin work on the NextGEN International website. Setting up the subdomain with GEN and agreeing on what coding language to use took a considerable amount of time and a lot of the initial energy was lost. The beginning stages can be seen here: www.nextgen.ecovillage.org

Accordingly, NextGEN North America has moved forward with an independent website, designed by North American Representative Cynthia Tina, which can be found here: www.nextgenna.org

Europe Conference

From July 7-12, 2013 NextGEN had an International Meeting at Schweibentalp in Switzerland. This meeting coincided with the GEN International Conference and brought together almost 50 youth interested in the ecovillage movement. NextGEN participants engaged in a Dragon Dreaming process to



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envision what NextGEN should represent and what it could accomplish. Community building activities were also designed and led to bring the group closer together and empower them as individuals.

This meeting largely served as a place for youth to gather, share, and be heard. The most notable accomplishment of this meeting was the election of 2 Regional Representatives for each of five regions and 3 International Representatives. NextGEN also received the 2013 Gaia Excellence Award from the GEN General Assembly.



Kenya Conference

From December 10-14, 2013 GEN Africa held a Conference in Thika, Kenya. There were 120 participants from over 30 African nations present. At this event, NextGEN also had two days of meetings to discuss further development of NextGEN Africa. International Representative and North American resident Nick Joyce, European Representative Jake Jay-Lewin, South American Representative Leticia Rigatti, and Europe to Africa Liason Lydia Schellhammer were all present at these meetings to provide insight into the activities of their respective regions as well as the overall activities of NextGEN International.



REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

NextGEN has a branch in each of the six GEN regions. Each NextGEN Region has 2 Regional Representatives who were elected at the NextGEN meeting at Schweibenalp in June 2013. A Regional Coordination Team supports the Regional Representatives. Each region has coordinated it's own activities and the NextGEN International Representatives have been responsible for maintaining communication with each

region and an organizational overview. The updates from each region can be found below.

Africa

In South Africa and Congo, we have been engaging with young people in Eastern Congo from villages around World Heritage Site in Danger Kahuzi Biega National Park. Isidore Kikukama, has been coordinating the youth group as part of NextGEN RDCongo, some of them will be involved in the ongoing GEN RDCongo Pygmees Ecovillage project.



South Africa

NextGEN South Africa was formed in May during the Women-for -Women EDE held in Mpumalanga South Africa. As a direct outcome of the EDE, a youth skills training was organized and held in September 2013 which involved starting a fair trade Marula oil production cooperative. This is an ongoing River of Life project still being developed with the support of Lush Cosmetics UK.



We are planning on organizing a Youth Summer Camp this year and need funds for this purpose. The Combretum Trust School in Namibia is also collaborating on this project and looking at Tanzania, Zimbabwe or possibly South Africa as the host country. Namibia is also looking to host a National Youth Camp.

A "The Nomadic Youth Tour" is planned for November in Gambia as a South-South youth initiative. The tour will travel from Gambia to the GEN International Summit in Senegal.

PROJECTS

SCOPE Project

Zimbabwe, work of Linda Kabaira, NextGEN International Representative

SCOPE conducted from 12 to 1 week long integrated land use design (ILUD) implementation workshops in 69 Schools over the period 02nd of September - 8th of November 2013 in the 10 Provinces of the Country. And School designs follow up activities of greening the environment towards, food sovereignty, community inter generational learning and biodiversity management. A total of 442 participants, from 69 Schools attended the training of trainers (TOT) at 12 focal schools in the 10 Provinces of the country. 64% (44) out of the 69 participating Schools were Primary Schools (6-13 years) while 36% were Secondary and High School pupils (13- 19 years). Participants were drawn from four categories; the School development committee (SDC), pupils, teachers' the other stakeholders, local leadership. The workshops conducted are meant to benefit 48572 school children and 1568 teachers and their communities as direct beneficiaries of the Project.



During the week-long workshops, the participants dwelt on the following issues:

1. Worldview Aspects and history of their area and land. (Celebrating and knowing their roots and the Global crisis issues)
2. Food security and food sovereignty, focusing on the three aspects of food:
 - a. Food must be available and accessible, growing own food.
 - b. Food must be balanced and of nutritive value
 - c. Food must be available at all times (food right)
3. Situational analysis (Mapping and defining thresholds)
4. Integrated land use design for socio, ecological economic gains (Land designs practical and action plans for 2014).
5. Participatory monitoring and evaluation (establishing outcome indicators of progress for M&E)

Europe

NextGEN Europe is focusing on networking and outreach. They are building a network of on-the-ground contacts at European Ecovillages to serve as NextGEN Ambassadors, planning regional meetings, designing a website and developing online tools.



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NextGEN Europe was awarded funding from the Youth in Action EU funding scheme for a conference during the summer of 2014. It will be run alongside the GEN-Europe conference at ZEGG in July. NextGEN is co-organizing a Community Vision Quest for the Summer/Fall of 2014 at Community Aurora in Romania. Two NextGEN Europe members attended the GEN-Africa Summit in Kenya, providing general logistical assistance and sharing regional insights at the NextGEN meetings.

Asia

From June to October 2013, NextGEN Asia Representative Om Sunisa completed 'The Journey to the Himalayas.' With support from GENOA, she traveled through Sri Lanka, India, Ladak and Nepal to raise awareness among children of South Asia about environmental issues, sustainable living and to promote ecovillage living. During this campaign they reached about 2000 children and youth in schools, colleges, and communities as well as providing a few workshops for schoolteachers. During this journey, NextGEN Sri Lanka was formed.

NextGEN Sri Lanka has 10 working groups in different parts of the country. A National Coordinator, who works in collaboration with the Center for Peace Building and Reconciliation (CPBR), oversees them. These working groups are active in their communities; raising awareness among friends/families and other youth. They plan to have a Youth EDE for young community leaders in September 2014.

NextGEN Nepal was also formed in during this tour. They work to raise awareness and promote sustainable living among school children in Kathmandu. They are a strong core group and have regular weekly meetings. They plan to have an EDE in Nepal to deepen their understanding of ecovillages and spread awareness among other youth.

NextGEN Bangladesh was formed in November 2012. There are about 5-6 NextGEN local groups in Bangladesh and all are active. They are working together to spread awareness about sustainable living and ecovillage among other youth. They are now on a mission to spread awareness and form more NextGEN groups in Dhaka.

NextGEN Asia will start another journey in Southeast Asia around December 2014 - March 2015. They aim to start connecting with active youth groups of sustainable living movement in Southeast Asia and promote the ecovillage model, forming local.

NextGEN groups in each country (Thailand, Burma, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam & Malaysia).



North America

A number of exciting NextGEN projects are taking off in North America! North American Representative Nebesna Fortin is busy holding bilingual events at schools and universities in the Canadian province of Quebec as well as welcoming youth into her community La Cite Ecologique. Cynthia Tina and Nick Joyce are setting up events and bringing together a team of young people eager to develop NextGEN-NA to live and work at Sirius Community, an ecovillage in Massachusetts, U.S. Together we have written a mission statement and envisioned a clear direction for our organization. In North America, NextGEN will have two primary focuses:

- 1.) Establishing a network of **Ecovillage Ambassadors** – young people living in ecovillages throughout North America and excited to help more youth visit their community;
- 2.) Setting up events for our **Integrated Sustainability Educators** – experienced individuals teaching about ecovillages and the four dimensions of sustainability to students of all age levels.

We see our purpose as connecting youth with the ecovillage movement and empowering them to build the world of our generation. Visit our new website for more information, as well as to see the applications for both of our programs (www.nextgenna.org).

We are currently in the process of formalizing Fiscal Sponsorship Agreements with the Ecovillage Network of the Americas (ENA) in order to open a bank account a being to receive tax-deductible donations. We have also begun to apply for a number of grants and other fundraising opportunities so as to host a series of NextGEN events in 2014.

Nick Joyce is also busy working on InTerraTree, a locally owned and artist-run ecovillage and education center in Togo, West Africa promoting cross-cultural exchange and sustainable/creative collaboration (www.drumsfordevelopment.org).

South America

The year 2013 brought the idea of creating a NextGen group here in Latin America for the first time, and initial progress has been made. We have created an email group to begin discussing how this can work, and are articulating with different youth leaders that organized the Youth Council groups who gather together during the Vision Council Gatherings (uniting ecovillages, indigenous communities and permaculture movement) in Mexico, Colombia and other countries around Latin America. A report from the Youth Council in Mexico in November describes a group of 15-25 youth who met over the course of a week to share their different experiences about sustainable living with art, poetry and music, as well as receive visits from elders to dialogue with other generations.



The EcoCaravans Network of CASA (Council of Sustainable Settlements of the Americas) have been active also, with a nomadic gathering in Argentina that took place after the 3rd annual permaculture gathering in October, which brought together several nomadic groups to share their work and ideas and created more space for nomadic projects in the national movement. Some resolutions from that: to have a space for nomadic projects in every national gathering to share learning and strategies as "weavers" of the sustainable movement.

Another EcoCaravan gathering took place after the Vision Council gathering in Mexico in November, bringing together 5 nomadic projects for an exchange and sharing in the Huehuecoyotl Ecovillage. An article about this gathering, written by Fernando Ausin-Gomez of the BioTu project, was included in the last GEN Newsletter ([here](#)).

Leticia and Ryan of the Común Tierra Project (www.comuntierra.org) have been active in coordinating these efforts and building the NextGEN group in the continent. They are continuing for their fourth year traveling through Latin America, visiting, documenting, and sharing information about more than 90 projects visited along the continent. The Común Tierra Project has produced about 45 trilingual educational videos about sustainability and works spreading the word and innovative ideas about the sustainable projects to the world. The Project also works connecting groups of people to the CASA network as well as documenting and writing about many projects along the way.

GEN INFORMATION SERVICES



I N F O R M A T I O N T E C H N O L O G I E S O V E R V I E W 2 0 1 3



G E N E R A L I N D E X

GEN IT Vision, Mission, Goals, and Strategic objectives 2014

GEN IT Organizational Chart

GEN IT Audiences

GEN IT Contacts Roster

GEN IT - Current Activities List



The Global Ecovillage Network is a registered charity: SC043796 and has consultative status in the UN - ECOSOC.

WEB: [GEN International](#), [GEN Europe](#), [CASA](#), [GENOA](#), [GEN Africa](#), [Next GEN](#)

GENT IT Vision, Mission and Goals

Vision

We envision a system in which information is disseminated to the public, and used internally for the operations of GEN and its regions and partners, in support of the expansion and unity of the ecovillage and sustainability movement globally.

Mission

To organize and coordinate with the GEN Board, its Regional Liaisons (IT Working Group) and partners to develop integrated information and communications services that can grow with the needs of the movement.

To fulfill this mission, the GEN IT Team provides:

- Web hosting services (server in Europe), and DNS registration;
- Systems Administration and Technical Support;
- GEN web mastery with input on content, design and function from GEN Liaisons and Board;
- Technical implementation of Board approved new services and features;
- GEN e-mail, e-list Management and support for decentralization of list management;
- Database development and management;
- Interactive public features development and management;
- Moderation of DB entries;
- Support for decentralization of DB management and utilization to more local levels
- Collaborative IT projects with partners, as directed by the GEN Board.

Goals -

To capture, organize and disseminate vast amounts of diverse, regionally and locally specific information to cultivate, support and expand the implementation of sustainable living principles and practices;

To strengthen GEN's global identity and presentation, while allowing for regional autonomy and creativity to be expressed in an integrated manner in the GEN and Regional web sites/databases;

To provide a dynamic, interactive web presence to accomplish the organizational goals of GEN and its Regions;

To develop and consistently maintain systems and support for the many ecovillage.org websites;

To manage and provide technical support for ecovillage.org e-mail accounts and e-lists;

To continue implementation of the new GEN Database, other interactive public tools, and internal workspace systems;

To support the Regions and sub-Regions to make use of the GEN IT tools;

To support transitions to decentralized management of the Websites, DB and e-lists.

Main Achievements 2013



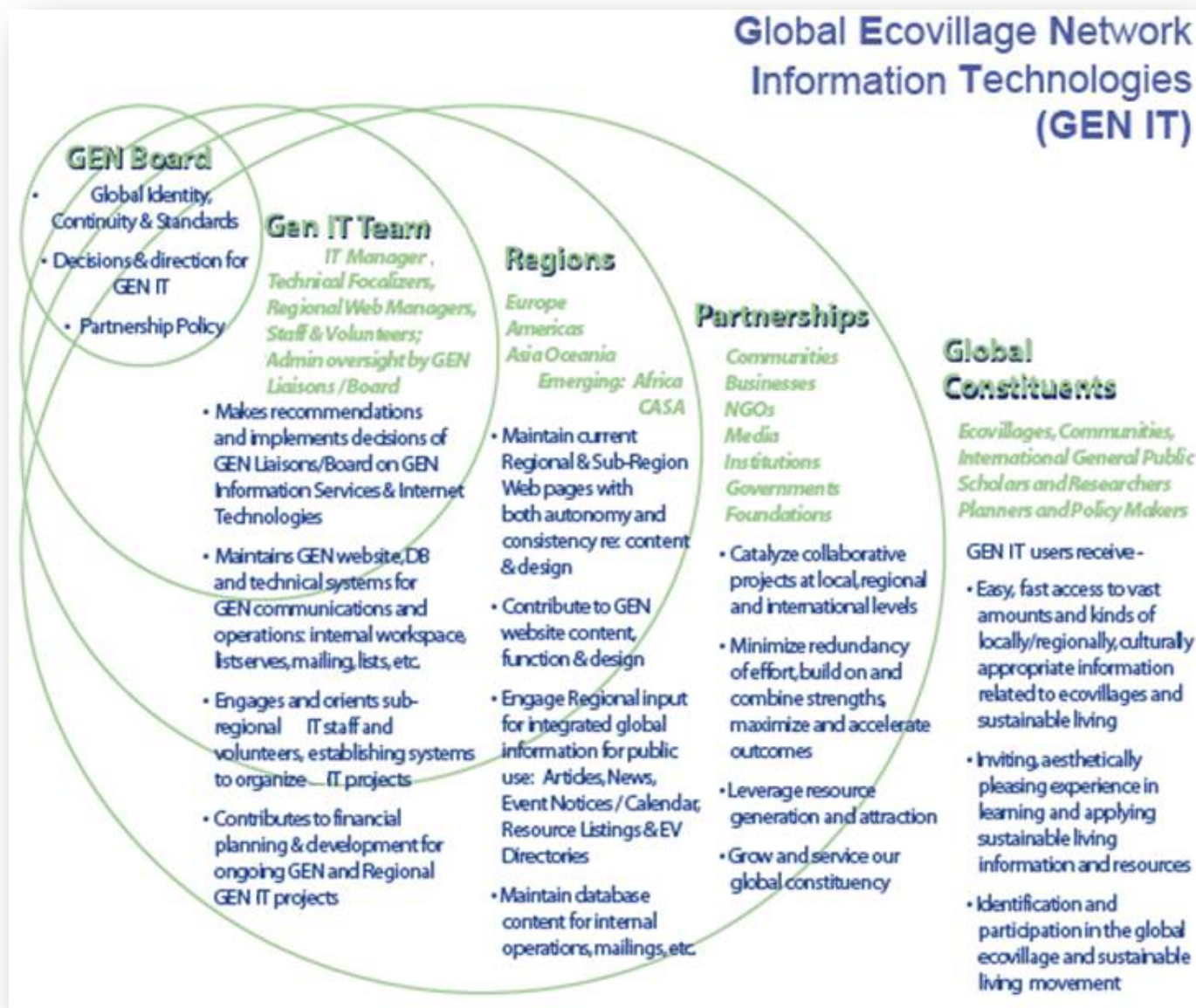
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- Independence of GEN International IT team
- Improvements on infrastructure and integration of websites
- Further development of GEN-Sites
- Development and soft launching of Solutions Library
- Creation of tools and documentation for moderator-workflow, translation-workflow etc.
- Enhanced use of Contact-Management-Software (CiviCRM), News-distribution and Newsletter

Strategic objectives 2014

- To review the structure of the area, introducing the role of GEN IT Manager. The aim of this role is to bridge communications and promote alignment of direction between GEN Board and GEN IT Team.
- To review team, processes and projects based on the overall strategy for GEN International.
- To improve the Website, GEN-sites and Solution Library to highlight educational aims, grassroots projects and funding campaigns, based on GEN strategic goals.
- To improve and streamline collaboration among all stakeholders supported by information systems.
- To ensure the methodology and communication adopted are in line with ecovillage cultural and social principles advocated by GEN, balancing the focus on the process and the outcomes.



Audiences for the GEN Information Technologies

Who	What do they want	What can they offer
Members of GEN communities	News of others in the network, a place they can be proud of that explains them, useful best practice, a place for their voice to be heard	Content: news, articles, event notices, photos, film clips, etc.
NextGEN members	News of others in the movement, useful best practices, a place for their voice to be heard	Content: news, articles, event notices, photos, film clips, etc.
EV educators and activists	News of others in the movement, a place to promote their programs	Content: news, articles, event notices, photos, film clips, etc.
EV working groups	Shared work/discussion space, wiki, conferencing	Projects, content: news, articles, event notices, photos, film clips
Students	Simple ("term paper") info on EVs, info on educational programs, stories of experiences by peers	Stories, market for educators, blogs, photos, film clips
Scholars & Researchers	Access to EVs, articles on EVs, links to go further, contacts to other researchers	Research results, connections, credibility
Journalists	Simple ("term paper") info on EVs, access to EVs, articles on EVs, links to go further	Exposure (mixed blessing)
Funders	Evidence of GEN's value and effectiveness	Funds, connections, credibility
Planners & Architects	Articles, useful best practices, access to EVs	Know-how, connections, credibility
Policy Makers	Translation of learning outcomes into the wider world, credible analysis	Funds, connections, credibility
People who want to start EVs	Useful best practice, info on education programs, connections	Market for events and programs, donations
People who want to join EVs	Info about communities, guidance on choosing, connections	Market for events and programs, donations
People who want to visit EVs	How-to for visiting, info about communities, guidance on choosing, connections	Market for events and programs, donations
Members of non-GEN communities	News of others in the movement, help in deciding if they want to join GEN, useful best practice	Market for events and programs, content: news, articles, event notices, etc.
Activists in sister movements	A way to understand what EVs and GEN are all about, news of others in the movement, connections	Connections, mutual support
General Public - world wide	Information on how to live more sustainably, connect and exchange info w/others doing the same.	A sustainable future!

GEN International Information Technologies (GEN IT)

GEN IT CONTACTS

NOTE: FOR ALL GEN IT ISSUES PLEASE USE THIS EMAIL ADDRESS: it@ecovillage.org

REGIONAL WEBSITES

GEN-EU: www.gen-europe.org

GEN Africa: www.gen-africa.org

ENA: ena.ecovillage.org

CASA: www.casacontinental.org

GENOA: genoa.ecovillage.org

SPECIAL PROJECTS

CiviCRM it@ecovillage.org

Solution Library solution@ecovillage.org - <http://solution.ecovillage.org/>

