



## **GEN International - Vision, Mission, Goals, Main Activities & Strategic Goals and Targets**

### **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.

**AFRICA | AMERICAS | EUROPE | ASIA&OCEANIA**

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

[www.gen.ecovillage.org](http://www.gen.ecovillage.org)



## **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

1. To co-ordinate the activities of a number of regional ecovillage networks around the world
2. To serve as an incubator and platform for international projects and initiatives that 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.



## **STRATEGIC GOALS AND TARGETS**

- 1. Strengthen the internal relationships of trust and mutual exchange that are the very foundation of GEN, and organizational structures that support these**
  - a. For monthly Open Forum meetings, and annual surveys to be conducted amongst members of GEN so that a constant process of participative learning and feedback takes place within GEN structures by Dec 2015
  - b. For there to be an online public and internal document repository in place so that documents can be accessed by GEN members globally by Dec 2015
  - c. For sociocratic principles to be adapted to GEN and a core document of sociocratic guidelines to be published by Dec 2015
  - d. For GEN's over-arching global structure to be in place, with coherent policies and practices from the GEN International apex institution to the continental structures in Europe, Asia, Africa, US/Canada and Latin America and the national institutions
  
- 2. Increase the number and visibility of grassroots actions and ecovillage projects that are linked to GEN**
  - a. To link up to 20.000 Ecovillages, villages and communities through GEN's regional, thematic and national networks by 2020. (Current status estimated: 10.000)
  - b. 5.000 Ecovillage projects to be entered into GEN's project database/interactive maps by 2020. (Current status estimated: 1.000)
  - c. To bring to 160 the number of UN nations which already host at least one Ecovillage by 2020. (Current status estimated: 110)
  - d. For GEN to have a membership of 60 legally registered national Ecovillage networks by 2020
  
- 3. Increase the number of individuals who support GEN (e.g. GEN-Ambassadors, Friends of GEN, GEN Volunteers, GEN Staff, etc.)**
  - a. For 100 GEN-Ambassadors to be actively engaged worldwide by Dec 2015
  - b. For 50.000 individual email addresses to receive the GEN-newsletter by 2020. (Current status: 13.000)
  - c. To achieve donations of up to € 500.000 through Friends of GEN and Supportive Members of GEN by 2020



- 4. Share best practice and showcase the sustainability solutions implemented by ecovillage projects on the ground**
  - a. To have 5,000 solutions entered into the GEN Solution Library by
- 5. Offer pathways to sustainability (e.g. Ecovillage Transition) that are easy to implement and further develop education and programs that support this**
  - a. In collaboration with Gaia Education to further develop GEN curricula and research programs
  - b. In collaboration with Gaia Education to educate at least 10,000 persons annually in its GEN Global Education Program around the world by 2020.
  - c. To set up a GEN-Consultancy, bringing together a list of 100 distinguished eco-development experts from all over the world by 2020.
- 6. Create inspirational conferences and communication strategies to promote sustainable lifestyles and resilience worldwide**
  - a. For GEN-International and at least 4 of GEN's Regional Networks to host annual Conferences by 2020.
  - b. For GEN's website and communication mechanism to be fully operational by Dec 2015
  - c. For publicity materials and information about GEN's activities to be readily available to all GEN supporters worldwide
- 7. Raise the profile of GEN internationally through pro-active political influencing (e.g. governments, AU, EU, UN)**
  - a. For GEN to initiate and continuously push agenda issues for global transition to resilience in at least 3 UN organizations, within the European Commission/European Parliament, and in 5 other IGOs of the Global South by 2020.
- 8. Build and strengthen strategic alliances with like-minded governmental and civil society organisations and socially responsible corporations**
  - a. For GEN to showcase 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. For GEN to have built at least 25 alliances with like-minded organisations with signed MOUs or Partnership Agreements by 2020.



9. **Strengthen the organizational and financial base of GEN in order to adequately fund its activities and staff and expand human resources**
  - a. For GEN-International as the global coordinating umbrella to channel € 3 million annually to regional and national networks and their initiatives by 2020.
  - b. For GEN to have 20 full-time staff by 2020.