



International Permaculture Coordinator interview

Steven Jones



Sector39

- ▶ Community engagement through permaculture since 2005
- ▶ We have been actively teaching and supporting permaculture pioneers in East Africa since 2016
- ▶ Since then, we have received countless requests for support, communications and feedback from would be learners and participants

Build links with key individuals

- ▶ Identify and support change makers
- ▶ Networking
- ▶ Basic resources to remove obstacles

International enquiries





Request 1: Jeeban from Nepal

Amrit Kunja Organic Permaculture Farm

- ▶ .Help us to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable children , farmers and society
 - ▶ We will also have a natural building demonstration site. I need help to design and develop this land into a working model permaculture farm demonstrating permaculture ideas and techniques and to be connected to like-minded people and organisations sharing the same vision. Help us to make this dream a reality. Our land is off-grid in a rural community in the Kaski District .Help us to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable children , farmers and society
- Warm regards,
Jeeban

Initial thoughts

- ▶ I know Pokhara, many tourists and eco-tourism potential
- ▶ Chris Evans, Himalayan permaculture links, JPP etc
- ▶ Last year we linked to community gardens in Kathmandu valley
- ▶ There is a good groundswell of local projects to link to
- ▶ Advantage from raising international profile

Response

- ▶ Your project will be added to our data base of international projects
- ▶ Links to Permaculture Nepal networks and projects in existence
- ▶ <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/-/see-how-permaculture-transformed-farmland-in-nepal-from-barren-to-lush>
- ▶ <https://www.npg.org.np/>
- ▶ Access to relevant resources for further training and supporting your members and visitors, design support
- ▶ We can offer to link a key member of your project to our monthly on-line project development seminars
- ▶ US\$6 per month data support is available to apply for to attend meetings
- ▶ Feedback your progress and experience to the network



Request 2: Oussou, from Niger

Action Niger project

- ▶ From: **Oussou L**
- ▶ Subject: Action Niger project
- ▶ To: Andy Goldring <andyg@permaculture.org.uk>
- ▶
- ▶ We want to lead this project in the region of Zinder/Niger We need help, assistance and subsidy. help us as much as you can, give your contribution to plead our cause.

Initial thoughts

- ▶ I saw this contact request last year and interacted with them
- ▶ Huge pressures on nomadic pastoralist being pushed out of Sahel by climate change
- ▶ Coming up against settled farmers in southern region
- ▶ Young males being recruited to fundamentalist organisation
- ▶ There is wider ambition to re-humidify highlands
- ▶ Large scale interventions are required
- ▶ Could generate a powerful example as a result
- ▶ Many challenges here but potential also

Response

- ▶ Your project will be added to our data base of international projects
- ▶ You will be linked to the East Africa permaculture network
- ▶ Please note PAB is not a funder, or source of funds but might be able to help you approach funders/ build a case for funding
- ▶ We understand some of the stresses and opportunities represented by your request
- ▶ International permaculture networks
- ▶ International development agencies
- ▶ Muslim support networks

Umuntu Zimbabwe



Initial thoughts

- ▶ Permaculture has been well established in Zimbabwe since late 80's
- ▶ National networks exist
- ▶ Training centre in Harare
- ▶ Excellent examples, CELLUCT in East Highlands being principle one
- ▶ Evans Maengwende attend the East Africa convergence in 2018
- ▶ Also strong networks in South Africa
- ▶ Question, where is momentum now, what has changed?

Umuntu Centre Zimbabwe

▶ LETTER TO UMUNTU NETWORK

- ▶ Hello there, I came across your work via an Umuntu project in Zimbabwe, a country I am very interested in and where I received my initial training in permaculture at Fambidzani in the early 1990's. This was a life changing experience for me and set me on a life long career in permaculture. In recent years I began teaching Uganda and this has rapidly grown into a network of trainees and now teachers and mentors. We are calling ourselves the S39 Academy of permaculture, Sector39 being my training enterprise based in Wales, UK.
- ▶ We were initially linked to Uganda through the Wales for Africa program and have grown from there. I am currently seeking a position with the Permaculture Association in Britain, as International Co-Ordinator and am very keen to make broader links with networks such as yours. We estimate that since January 2020 we have trained over 5,000 people in East Africa, to the point that permaculture has had a significant impact on their lives. We are now aiming to build on this network and to use it to identify leaders and pioneers in permaculture across Africa and beyond.
- ▶ I would welcome the opportunity to explore mutual interests further.

Further response

- ▶ Your project will be added to our data base of international projects
- ▶ Please note PAB is not a funder, or source of funds but might be able to help you approach funders/ build a case for funding
- ▶ Southern Africa permaculture networks
- ▶ Pan African permaculture
- ▶ Awareness of opportunities across the region
- ▶ PELUM, Fambidzanai

International permaculture groups

- ▶ IPEN. International Permaculture Education Network
- ▶ CoLab. International Permaculture Collaborative Laboratory
- ▶ Permaculture International
- ▶ Abundant Earth Foundation
- ▶ Permaculture Education Institute
- ▶ Permaculture Africa
- ▶ Permies.com

Part 2

- ▶ A key task for the International Coordinator will be to build a network of support that links people and organisations around the world who are working on, or want to work on permaculture.

Please explain how you would go about building such a network?

We are interested to understand things such as your approach, what considerations would be key, what resources might be needed, what the fundamental principles would be, what challenges there would be etc.

currently

- ▶ Track key people and projects over social media
- ▶ Africa = Facebook and WhatsApp
- ▶ Also use Signal and Zoom for conferencing

- ▶ WordPress for blogs and websites
- ▶ Strategy to capture and share outcomes and examples
- ▶ Track progress
- ▶ Cross linkages

Database to log all connections

- ▶ Customer management system to track all contacts and interactions
- ▶ Newsletter, mailings and summaries published regularly
- ▶ Review of software and technologies suitable for these functions
- ▶ WordPress blog to facilitate dialogue and raise profile

Monthly International Permaculture Forum

- ▶ Featured project each month
- ▶ Links to supporters and funders
- ▶ Critique and development for project
- ▶ Cross fertilisation of ideas
- ▶ Hosted by international members - Stella Amuge
- ▶ Content will feed into a dedicated website/ blog
- ▶ Facebook and other social media links also

Features

- ▶ Regular dialogue
- ▶ Awareness raising of projects and ambitions
- ▶ Feedback of problems and frictions
- ▶ Linking pioneers together
- ▶ Easy access for potential supports, donors and contributors
- ▶ Peer to peer learning
- ▶ Verification and portfolios
- ▶ Facilitate dialogue between learners
- ▶ Location, skills, availability