



Join the Namibian Organic Association, as we walk with you on a life-changing, two week Permaculture Design Course.

What is Permaculture?

The ultimate purpose of Permaculture (or “permanent culture”) is to develop a site until it meets all the needs of its inhabitants, including food, shelter, fuel, and entertainment. Bill Mollison and David Holmgren, two Australians, first proposed the concept of Permaculture in the mid 1970’s, an internationally accepted methodology taught in tertiary institutions.

Permaculture provides a means whereby individuals, groups and communities can empower themselves to develop sustainable human settlements, from deserts to the tropics, to rebuilding war torn communities - all based on proven ecological patterns and principles.

The course will follow the core Permaculture Design Curriculum, used internationally, covering design and practices for human environments, from homes right through to extensive wildlife areas. Using the Five-Rand Informal Settlement in Okahandja, for putting Permaculture into practice, participants will actively create their own Permaculture Designs for these two environments and implement some of the strategies.



Details

Dates:

20 March – 2 April 2015

Venue:

Okahandja (TBA)

Training cost per participant:

N\$3,200 (Normal price N\$6,600)

Accommodation & meals:

N\$ 4,340

Who should attend?

The course is appropriate for anyone who has the desire to design and practically implement resilient regenerative futures, and from all walks of life.

- People interested in design of sensible human and environmentally friendly habitats starting with our homes and rural communities
- People interested in growing their own food – in urban or rural settings

- Small-scale or large-scale farmers producing food for the formal and informal market
- NGOs supporting food security projects
- Extension officers, agricultural advisors, community helpers
- Gardeners
- Landscape architects
- Lodges and hotels

Transformation: before and after Permaculture

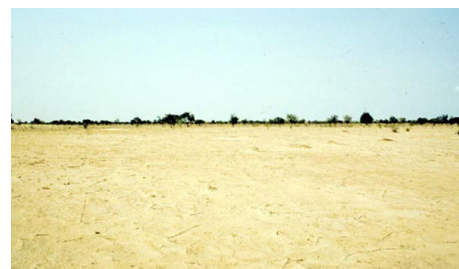
Household garden



Chinese agriculture



Niger environment



About the Permaculture Design Course

What will you learn?

You will learn to observe, consider, analyse and design productive landscapes from balconies to large farms, towns to villages, livelihoods, relationships and communities and how “resource poor” communities can work together for their combined benefit.

Theoretical and practical topics which will be covered include:

- Principles and ethics of permaculture design.
- Site analysis and design, from the sub-tropics, to the tropics and temperate regions, from humid to arid landscapes.
- Reading the landscape and pattern recognition.
- Landscape master planning and microclimate design.
- Design for climate change.
- Regenerative land management and stewardship.
- Water harvesting, storage, filtration, and distribution.
- Biologically based treatment of greywater and blackwater.
- Natural and alternative building techniques.
- Agroecology including agro-forestry and organic agriculture.
- Micro-organisms.
- Organic soil management for soil quality, health and fertility.

- Integrated farming with crops and animals.
- Aquaponics.
- Nursery techniques, plant propagation and grafting.
- Cultivation and use of medicinal plants.
- Orchard design and maintenance.
- Alternative energy technologies: methane bio-digesters, rocket stoves, and solar ovens.
- Renewable energies and biofuels.
- Local and regenerative economics.
- Urban and suburban permaculture strategies.
- Village design and community building strategies.

Course requirements

- Each participant has to attend all days of the course
- Must be fluent in English
- Participate in practical training sessions

Course Content Outline

The following units are an integral part of the course:

Introduction to Permaculture

- Introductions - meeting each other (Unit 1)
- Principles of ecology (Unit 2)

- Ethics, Principles, Characteristics (Unit 3)
- Design methods (Unit 4)
- Map reading (Unit 5)

Ecological Themes

- Introduction to Microorganisms as foundation to Ecology & Effective Microorganisms (EM)
- Water and Landscape (Unit 6)
- Rejuvenating soil (Unit 7)
- Designing with climate (Unit 8)
- Design with microclimates (Unit 9)
- Earthworks (Unit 10)
- Plants in permaculture (Unit 11)
- Forests (Unit 12)
- Windbreaks (Unit 13)

Designing productive ecosystems

- Patterns in nature (Unit 14)
- Zone 0: Siting, building and furnishing eco-homes (Unit 15)
- Zone I: Home food gardens (Unit 16)
- Zone II: Orchards & Food forests (Unit 17)
- Zone II: Food forests and small livestock (Unit 18)
- Zone III: Cropping and large livestock (Unit 19)
- Zone IV: Restorative forests (Unit 20)
- Zone V: Natural forests (Unit 21)

- World climate biozones (Unit 22)

Increasing resilience & productivity

- Site analysis (Unit 23)
- Design graphics and creative problem solving (Unit 24)
- Incomes from acres (Unit 25)
- Design for mitigating disasters (Unit 26)
- Integrated pest management (Unit 27)

- Living with weeds (Unit 28)

- Aquaculture (Unit 29)
- Wild friends (Unit 30)

Social permaculture

- Bioregions - collective self-sufficiency (Unit 31)
- Ethical money (Unit 32)
- Permaculture and ethical workplace/businesses (Unit 33)

- Land ownership (Unit 34) – can one own land – obligations

- Land ethics and access (Unit 35)
- Designing communities (Unit 37)
- Transforming the suburbs (Unit 38)
- Designing cities (Unit 39)

Last day of the PDC

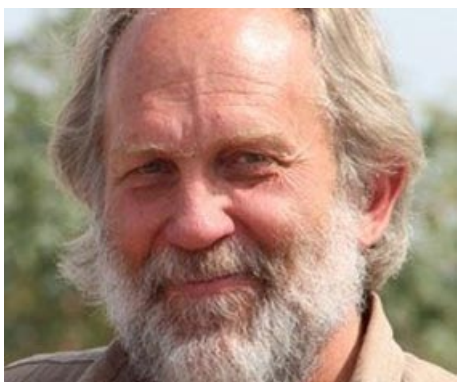
- Evaluation & conclusion (Unit 40)

Course facilitators



Thomas Linders

Thomas Linders has a diploma in Curative Education (Switzerland) and has worked with Organic and Biodynamic Agriculture since 1981. He has a Permaculture Design Certificate and has used and taught Permaculture since 1997. Through his experience with numerous Household Food Security Programs, small-scale agriculture training programs with government and NGO's, as well as consultations to individuals, farms and companies, in sustainable 'green' practices, he has the expertise and drive to help develop best practice models that teach and pass on this wealth of knowledge and practical experience. Thomas has a deep love for nature – water and the rehabilitation and enlivening of polluted waters are his passion. He is recognised by the International Secretariat for Water (ISW), Montreal (Canada) as one of The Water Sages - an international expert in this field. He is one of South Africa's leading practitioners using Effective Microorganisms in his work.



Stephen Barrow

Stephen Barrow has a BSc Hons Agriculture, majoring in Soil Science and Hydrology and undertook the Permaculture Design Course at Fambidzanai, Zimbabwe, in the early 1990's. His deep love of the soil and water is expressed through total and absolute commitment to Organic and Biodynamic Agriculture, expanded into Agro-ecology. On the human scale, he has a strong sense of fairness, responsibility, and transparency in daily interactions with fellow humans and animals alike. He has spent many years in organic certification, in South Africa, Namibia and with IFOAM Organic International.



Manjo Smith

Manjo Smith has been farming organically in Okahandja for the last 11 years. She is the Chairperson of the Namibian Organic Association, and the Vice-chair for IFOAM Organics International, the umbrella body for the international organic sector. She is passionate about local food production, and sharing her internationally gained insights and knowledge to assist communities to help themselves.