



- To give teachers in Seattle and Arusha first-hand experience in another culture in order to develop content knowledge and build a deeper understanding of culture;
- To create curriculum that enriches current resources and create collaborative tele-curricula between two regions to build upon school-to-school partnerships; and
- To establish a web-based communication model that utilizes relevant software for classroom-to-classroom, student-to-student exchange.

Terrawatu will act as the main contact for the Tanzania team: oversee the installation of the Internet-capable computer lab "in the bush" to serve the Arusha schools (the first of its kind in East Africa!); coordinate the itinerary during the two-week Seattle Team's teacher study trip to Tanzania; and advise on the Tanzanian portion of the project.

Funds raised from our Africa Day event in Seattle are permitting us to continue with some of the construction of the additional classrooms at Natema Primary School. Our goal is to complete two classrooms by Christmas.

Our school garden projects – *inosa anguluwoni* - supported by Seeks for Africa in the UK, have produced their first harvest! 130 kg of zucchini were harvested at Natema Primary School in August. Some students took zucchini home to their families and the rest were sold by students in a local market in Arusha town. The money raised from these sales was used to provide a lunch for the students at the school (maize and beans and, of course, zucchini!). Government schools in Tanzania have no financial support for lunches so students typically do not eat from morning until 3 or 4 in the afternoon. This special day is hopefully the start of something new for the future. The other primary schools that have planted school gardens in this project will be harvesting green peppers, cucumbers, radishes, spinach and zucchini in the next months. In an interview with the head teacher of Natema, Victor Jeremiah had the following to say: "the children learned a lot!...to grow, to cook the vegetables, selling...what we are missing is markets." Terrawatu will be working with the schools to connect them to markets with a higher-income clientele, and creating slips of paper with nutritional information and simple recipes to hand out at point of sale. The students are collecting and drying seeds for the next planting cycle to begin shortly.

### **cross-cultural exchanges**

Terrawatu and Global Exchange have teamed-up to create *Tanzanian Reality Tours*. Global Exchange is a nonprofit human rights organization working for global political, economic, environmental and social justice ([www.globalexchange.org](http://www.globalexchange.org)). For almost fourteen years, Global Exchange Reality Tours have brought participants on journeys to a variety of countries including Cuba, South Africa, India, and Afghanistan to examine cultures firsthand and to see beyond the images portrayed by the mass media. This is an exciting development as *Reality Tour - Tanzania* will combine the expertise and uniqueness of Terrawatu's *Oloipung'o Experiences* with Global Exchange's experience of global reality tours and their network of people committed to social change. The first tours are scheduled for 4-17 May and September 2003. The itinerary is in three parts: I) The Indigenous Life – Immersion into the nature and culture of Maasailand; II) The complexities and challenges of Modern Life in town for Tanzanians migrating from rural villages; III) The Bridge – sustainable development projects that are working. Program highlights include:

- Participation in traditional healing ritual of the Maasai after exploring Tarangire National Park. Stay in traditional Maasai village.
- Visit schools and hospitals first created under colonial influence and supported during socialism that now challenge the expectations and resources of Tanzanians.
- Learn about the HIV problem and how traditional medicine is being used to treat the disease.
- Visit grassroots sustainable development projects empowering women, communities, and rekindling indigenous practices.

If you are interested in visiting us here in Tanzania and the Global Exchange Reality Tour concept sounds like your cup of chai, contact Sarah Dotlich at: [sarah@globalexchange.org](mailto:sarah@globalexchange.org) or 1.800.497.1994 for more information about this trip.

To book your own customized ecological-cultural safaris into the wildlife areas and indigenous communities of northern Tanzania, and/or to find out dates for a future *Oloipung'o Experience* with Terrawatu, send us an email at [journeys@terrawatu.org](mailto:journeys@terrawatu.org).



## Organizational News

Co-Directors Tanya Pergola and Lekoko Ole Sululu were in the United States during July and the beginning of August working on Terrawatu's organizational development activities. On Sunday, 28 July, Darryll Johnson, a member of our International Advisory Council, hosted an "Africa Day" event in support of Terrawatu. This event, held at the home of Darryll and his wife, Cherry, was attended by Terrawatu's current and prospective supporters and included opportunities to learn about our mission and contribute to our projects. Traditional African food was prepared by the hosts, Co-Directors, and catered by the Mt. Kenya Safari Club restaurant (located at 9415 Rainier Avenue S., Seattle). A good time was had by all and we hope to have opportunities for more of these occasions in the near future. A very warm Tanzanian *asante sana sana!* ("thank you very very much" in Swahili) goes out to Darryll and Cherry for their initiative and to all those who contributed at this event.

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) was held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 26 August-4 September. Terrawatu's Co-Directors were fortunate to be able to participate in this global event. We shared a booth with Bionet ([www.bionet-intl.org](http://www.bionet-intl.org)) at the IUCN Environment Centre venue to display the work of Terrawatu and answer questions from visitors passing through the international exhibit site. More about our experiences at WSSD can be found in the feature article in this newsletter.

Zawadi David, Terrawatu's research assistant and inspiring coordinator of our community re-forestation project will be departing in September for Lushoto, Tanzania to pursue a diploma of legal studies at the Institute of Judicial Administration. We'll miss you Zawadi, and wish you the best of luck in your studies and look forward to having you with us during school holidays.

Kephas M. Ndiamasi has joined Terrawatu's staff to work with the communities involved with our tree-planting projects. Kephas is a forester by training and holds a certificate in Agriculture from the United Republic of Tanzania Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. Kephas speaks fluent Maa, Swahili and English and has expertise in the cultivation of indigenous seeds that grow in the Maasailand ecosystem.

**New Feature on website** – We have just added a new feature to our website – a *Donate Now!* button. This button enables visitors to our website, [www.terrawatu.org](http://www.terrawatu.org), to donate online, instantly! Our *Donate Now!* button is a key step forward into the growing world of e-philanthropy. We are very excited about this development as it offers a safe and easy way for our current supporters to contribute to our work, and it creates the ability for us here in Tanzania to reach new supporters in a low-cost way. The *Donate Now!* feature is made possible through eGrants.org, a nonprofit Internet foundation created by the Tides Foundation. All donations are processed by eGrants.org utilizing the newest secure technology developed for e-commerce to ensure that a donor's information is kept private and secure. To find the button on our website, click on "The Organization", then "Financial Support".

## Needs section

© *Projector* – We know these are expensive little items...but, in case you run into one being downloaded from your place of business, please see if it is possible to direct it our way! It would be greatly beneficial to our work if we could broadcast out to the communities in the field the digital photos, Powerpoint presentations, and some great stuff from the Web that exists on our laptops. We can plug the projector into our “AC Anywhere” adapter in our vehicle, attach to battery-powered laptop, and show these images on the side of a school building out in the bush. Help us bridge the digital divide with the technological leap-frog from drawing with sticks in the sand to digital light pixels floating above red African earth.

© *Contributions for resource center.* The Medicinal Plant & Sustainable Development Resource Center is a collection of primarily academic literature covering the following subject areas: medicinal plants (with a focus on Tanzania and other African countries); indigenous knowledge (from all over the world); pharmacological evaluation of medicinal plants; grassroots environmental movement activity; Tanzanian and East African sustainable development policies; and, Maasai culture and current political issues effecting Maasai people. Users of this center are Terrawatu staff, international students and visitors working and studying in Arusha, and local people. If you have something to contribute to this growing collection contact us at [offerings@terrawatu.org](mailto:offerings@terrawatu.org) to let us know what you have and we will let you know the best way to get it to us (e.g. electronically or by post). Materials can be in English or Swahili.

## Activist corner - what you can do from where you are

\* In *terrat III*, we described the Earth Charter. At the Johannesburg Summit, large numbers of people learned more about this important document *and* ideas for putting its principles into action. After all, it is simply a document and it is up to all of us to make it more. There are many ways to get involved from where you are:

- **Commit to the aims and spirit** of the Earth Charter and use it in your daily life. (It is meant to be a part of our daily lives.)
- **Incorporate the Earth Charter into your workplace and local community.** Make it a part of all business, organization, association or government bodies through the mission statement, programs, activities, and literature.
- **Use the Earth Charter as an educational instrument in your classes.**
- **Use the Earth Charter as a theme** for workshops, conferences, forums, and meetings.
- **Express your support** for the Earth Charter by endorsing it online.

To learn how to get involved in any of these ways, visit [www.earthcharter.org](http://www.earthcharter.org). The website provides details regarding the Charter itself (in 26 languages), the Earth Charter in Action, and an Earth Charter Handbook.

Those of you who have stories you would like to share about how you have been using the Earth Charter, feel free to mail them to us at [info@terrawatu.org](mailto:info@terrawatu.org) and we will publish them in our next newsletter.



## Recipe- East African specialties

### Irio

A mixture of mashed potatoes, pumpkin leaves, and maize (corn), *irio* is a traditional dish among the Kikuyu people of Kenya. As this is pumpkin season in the northern hemisphere, creating this dish is a good excuse for wandering out into your nearest pumpkin patch and scavenging a few leaves. This recipe makes enough *irio* for 3-4 people. For carnivores, serve with roast meat (*nyama choma*); vegetarians, serve up some chapati and a green salad. Leftover *irio* can be formed into patties and fried in hot oil.

#### What you need

- two pounds potatoes, partly peeled
- six ears of fresh corn, removed from the cob (or one pound canned/frozen corn)
- fifteen pumpkin leaves (or one-half pound braising greens or spinach)
- black pepper, salt
- chopped sautéed onion (optional)

#### What you do

- Cut potatoes in large chunks and put in pot with shredded pumpkin leaves. Add enough water to allow vegetables to steam cook. Simmer.
- When potatoes are close to being ready (still takes a bit of effort to stick knife through), add corn and optional sautéed onion. Add water if necessary.
- When everything is fully cooked, get rid of most of the water. Mash with potato masher (add hot milk or water to make nice creamy texture).
- Add salt and pepper. Serve hot.



## Experiencing Johannesburg

*By Tanya Pergola*

*This article is divided into sections describing the most prominent of venues (out of dozens) in which activity happened during the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). I did it this way to give the reader a glimpse into the landscape of the event, and how the associated dispersion of energy throughout the landscape seemed to me to reflect the broader state of the sustainability conversation around the world.*

### **WHERE PEOPLE WERE AND HOW THEY MOVED AROUND**

Activity was scattered over a *large* area, at least over a 50km diameter. Delegates received a bus pass upon registration that gave us access to the special Summit buses, which worked fairly well, at least in our case. While some of the tens of thousands of participants had accommodation near to the major venues, many stayed over an hour's drive away. A significant number of Johannesburg's residents and local boarding schools opened their doors for homestays. We were very fortunate to stay with a wonderful family, which gave us a special view into daily life in Jo-burg, in the post-apartheid era. There were hundreds of policepeople hired to patrol Jo-burg during the Summit weeks, most of them carrying machine guns. We were told that after WTO-Seattle, 9/11, and the general tension that arises when "the less advantaged" meet the "most advantaged", the local Jo-burg government was not taking any chances.

## **SANDTON CONVENTION CENTRE**

Some would say that this was the “center” of the Summit. Located in a posh area of Jo-burg, Sandton was where the Heads of State met. Access was limited to those who had registered many months before with a “major group” and security was tight. While we could have entered this venue by connecting ourselves to a colleague from “a major group”, we never found the interest or desire to go inside the gates. Those we spoke with about what was happening behind the closed doors repeated the same thing over and over again, “it is a gabfest...very boring...very frustrating...progress made since Rio seems to be backsliding.” I wondered really, how can (predominantly) men, who spend most of their time thinking about matters other than the environment, drop down for a few days in South Africa and hope to understand the issues on the table well enough to make major decisions that would effect all citizens of the world. Is this their job? Should it be their job? Who has made it their job? Isn't it all of us voting citizens of the world? It became clear to me that the real action at the Summit was happening somewhere else. I won't spend time summarizing the blow-by-blow policy debates that happened at Sandton, this is already done for us by numerous good folks. If you are interested in reading a few, I'd recommend the following two web-based sources:

[www.johannesburgsummit.org](http://www.johannesburgsummit.org) – click on the “Highlights from WSSD: Commitments and Initiatives” link at the bottom of page. This PDF file lists what was accomplished. Note the biodiversity section, one of the few positive outcomes. Of course, all depends now on who keeps the commitments. [www.earthtimes.org](http://www.earthtimes.org): Earth Times published a free daily paper, called “Summit Star” during the weeks in Jo-burg. It was really good. Nice analysis, creative words. If you click on the picture of the magazine, “Earthtimes” on the top of their webpage, you can read all about their views of the summit in the current September issue.

## **NASREC (also known as Expo Centre)**

Located a half-hour bus ride from Sandton, this venue was home to “civil society” – the WSSD Civil Society Global Forum – meaning the place where the following groups could gather: non-governmental organizations (NGOs), women, youth, indigenous peoples, the disabled, labour, interfaiths, and, I suppose, anybody else who did not self-identify as a “Head-of-State”. It was intentional, of course, to locate these groups as far away as possible from “the government”, so there would be little chance of interacting. This was a fairly effective tactic as transport proved lengthy in between this site and others; so if you went to NASREC, you often stayed there all day. The difference in setting was striking, actually. The Expo Centre was located near Soweto, in the south of Johannesburg. Whereas one could walk to up-scale European-style bistros for lunch while in the Sandton area, eating opportunities at Nasrec included fast food, Coca Cola, and an occasional booth with traditional Southern African fare. I thought about the irony of so many “anti-corporate/whole-foods” people walking around consuming soda and hamburgers...you could just *feel* the domination over our lives.

As we were officially registered as delegates for the Global Forum, we attended several of the briefings and sessions at this venue. It was here where “anti-American” sentiments were most strongly displayed. People were sporting “Where's G.W.?” buttons, and talking openly about the American administration's lust for spending money on bombs instead of on poverty alleviation in their own country and around the world. Everyone knew George was on vacation in Texas at the time and wondered how he could *not* make the time to participate in this once-every-ten-year event. One particularly interesting moment occurred when American activist, Eric Mann, stood up in front of a large crowd and made it clear to the international audience that he is an American, but totally disagrees and is downright embarrassed by his president and his groupies. I listened to some fellow delegates sitting beside me from Africa and Asia who expressed their shock that a citizen of a country can say such disparaging things about his own nation, in public. That type of speech does not occur in many countries, certainly not in parts of sub-Saharan Africa. The passionate reactions of praise to Mann's final words about “power to the traditionally disadvantaged people” alerted me to the state of the world we are in – wither the nation state? Who are the leaders these days?

My overall sense about the dialogue filling the halls of Nasrec was that the tone of conversation has not changed over the years. Having attended a number of conferences and reading extensive commentary regarding sustainability, globalization, and the fate of our world, I see that the majority of civil society still has a very aggressive, critical view of governments, large corporations (which they view as controlling the former), and the general hopeless state of Spaceship Earth. While there are certainly many valid points to be made about the sorry state we are in, I came to WSSD to be inspired, not to be further depressed. I thought, "there has to be a way...instead of screaming about all the things that are wrong with our institutions, why not work seriously at creating an alternative?" I knew there were people and organizations taking positive steps towards creating a new way, and I sought out to connect with them. It did not look like Nasrec was where the revolution was happening.

To learn about the results of the WSSD Global Forum, check:

[www.worldsummit.org.za](http://www.worldsummit.org.za): Here you can read the "Civil Society Declaration" issued at the close of the summit and the WSSD Civil Society Secretariat's "Programme of Action".

### **IUCN ENVIRONMENT CENTRE**

I spent a great deal of time at the beautiful Nedcor Bank Ltd. Headquarters, about a 10-minute walk from the Sandton Convention Centre. Nedcor Bank, South Africa, partnered with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) to create a venue where Summit delegates, IUCN members and partners, and the business community could meet and discuss what was happening in Sandton, what wasn't happening, and what us "non-Heads-of-State" could do to "seize the moment" and launch real initiatives that actually would get something done. Part academia-style conference, part sophisticated-environmental-activist hangout, this venue proved to be the most intellectually-stimulating and realistic about creating those "win-win partnerships" many in this community have been talking about in the months leading up to WSSD.

Achim Steiner, Director General of IUCN, put it this way:

*"Welcome to the IUCN Environment Centre – our contribution to making this a 'working summit'. Johannesburg is not only a summit of governmental leaders but also of the visionaries, leaders and pioneers from civil society and the private sector committed to Agenda 21 and sustainable development. With well over 100 events being held at the IUCN Environment Centre, we hope to demonstrate that whatever the failures and frustrations since Rio – people around the world are acting and making progress. WSSD will be judged by whether it empowers or undermines this effort."*

We attended workshops entitled: "Places and Spaces for Indigenous Peoples in Sustainable Development", "Imagining Feasible Futures", "Africa Day – Rich but Poor", and "e-Opportunities for Sustainable Development". At the close of Africa Day, there was a celebration concert with a performance by Zimbabwean artists Oliver Mtukudzi and the Black Spirits Band. It was certainly nice to see a number of European men in suits jump out into the isles and release some of the "sitting-behind-the-computer-screen-too-long" energy with some serious African-style moves. Perhaps this is how these "partnerships" really work...when people join together in song and dance.

### **ST. STITHIANS COLLEGE**

A significant distance by taxi from Sandton Centre, St.Stithians College was the setting for "The Peoples Earth Summit & World Sustainability Hearings". The venue proved to be quite peaceful, with its rolling green hills and forested land; a nice respite from the crowds. We attended the world hearing on "Hunger, Agriculture, Water & Food Security" and it's associated press briefing, "Why Africa SHOULD Reject GE (genetically engineered) Contaminated Food Aid". Frances Moore Lappé opened the session with stories of hope from local communities around the world taking action to feed themselves with indigenous crops. She was followed by Percy Schmeiser, a farmer from Bruno,

Saskatchewan, Canada who has been battling with Monsanto over a case almost too outrageous to be real (as opposed to a movie script for "corporate conspiracies"). It is better to read his story for yourselves at [www.percyschmeiser.com](http://www.percyschmeiser.com). It is a good one.

After laying this fertile ground for what is going on with the world's food supplies, the stage was set for representatives from the government of Zambia and Zambian farmers to state their case as to why they are not accepting food aid from the United States. The government's stance is partly economic, partly precautionary principle: 1) Europe is a big potential market for Zambian agricultural products and the European Union has decided that GE foods are not desirable. If particles from the US Food Aid GE maize shipments enter the countryside, future harvests will be contaminated and un-sellable to the EU; 2) even though the American government has stated that Americans have been eating GE foods for years, there is no hard evidence, one way or the other as to how people's health is affected. As new studies come out linking a variety of the increasing number of American health conditions to toxic elements in the US environment and foodstuffs, the Zambian government has chosen to keep their citizens from such a risk. The Zambian government is grateful that Uganda and Tanzania have both offered Zambia GE free food during this crisis period. The truth is, there is enough food in Africa to feed all Africans, the problem is transportation and distribution. I thought, couldn't the money that is being used for expensive studies for creating more GE foods to "feed the poor" be used instead for building roads or railways?

This session really touched me. In fact, I had tears of joy in my eyes. Somebody was standing up to "the all-mighty economy". I do not think this would have happened just a few years ago, as people in places like Zambia honestly had no way of knowing what their options are. This is one striking example of the incredible benefits of modern communication technology and the good ways our globe is coming together. Many of the Zambian farmers had never been on an airplane before, and there they were, learning how to protect themselves from companies based thousands of kilometers away. There is hope, I thought, through meeting one another.

## **THE UBUNTU VILLAGE**

The word *ubuntu* is used in several Bantu languages. When I asked some locals what it meant in Zulu or Ndebele there was always some long discussion about how to translate it in English as there was no real equivalent. One person explained to me: "well, it means, humanity in the sense that one understands their humanity by recognizing the humanity of others and, on that basis, establishes respectful human relations with them"...something like that.

The Ubuntu Village at WSSD was the fun place to be. Fifteen minutes by bus from Sandton, it was a combination of "best environmental practices" global showcase; African art and trinket vendors; street performers; food booths serving up everything from Halal to Hare Krishna fare, pizza, and authentic South African meat, maize and beans; and the location of the Sacred Place. I read somewhere that the tent that provided the space for the country exhibits was the largest temporary free-standing tent ever erected in the world. It really was a city unto itself.

Inside the tent, the displays were slick. Hundreds of countries showing off their environmental achievements. Displays were multi-media, many using flat-screened computer monitors to entice perusing delegates to point and click their way through national, bilateral, and multilateral organizational websites. The Brazilian space was probably the most popular as people followed their noses to the ovens baking Brazil nut cookies. Collectively, there was reason to be impressed with the number of projects launched and some completed around the world, however many of us wondered *if* the money used to create and publish the glossy (and heavy) literature from each country, was used to fund projects such as tree-planting and educating local communities, maybe the next summit would have even more to show for itself.

The Earth Charter/Earth Council/Soka Gakkai display was especially memorable. We entered this space as the sun was setting (quite early of course as it was winter in the southern hemisphere). There were photos of natural sites that stirred the spirit. We walked into a room and sat to view the

documentary, *A Quiet Revolution*, narrated by Meryl Streep. I watched images of fighter planes flash before my eyes interspersed with Indian children in poverty. No words were necessary at first, as we all know that the amount of money spent on ONE military plane could be used instead to provide irrigation technology that would harvest rain in countless villages and provide food to undernourished people. People who would then be one step ahead of the struggle they now face, a struggle that leads to desperation, to a desire to inflict terror. Perhaps there would then be no need for that fighter plane? Case studies followed of "rainwater harvesters" in Rajasthan, India, a local community in Slovakia finding ways to destroy POPs (persistent organic pollutants), and the Green Belt Movement in Kenya. The message was clear, there are real people doing really incredible things all around the world. This is where the revolution is happening. Quietly.

## **SOWETO**

We took a break from the Summit on Saturday 31 August to visit Soweto. Short for South Western townships, Soweto is well-known globally as the location of the first uprisings that eventually led to the end of apartheid. Instead of going on one of the organized bus tours sponsored by the WSSD, we opted to have our friend and driver from the boarding school that had organized our accommodation take us around. We began at the Hector Pieterse memorial and museum, a very impressive display of the events leading up to and following the student uprisings outside the museum doors in 1974. The photographic and video images combined with the words inscribed on the panels easily gives one goose bumps and makes you realize how young the new South Africa is, with many deep wounds to heal.

A Soweto resident offered to take us around in the afternoon. We visited Nelson Mandela's home on Vilakazi Street, where he lived until 1958. A visit to Oppenheimer Tower was a most special moment, where we enjoyed some local millet brew and toured a village built by Vusamazulu Credo Mutwa, the traditional Zulu healer, to bring together the many indigenous tribes of South Africa into a village of peace, understanding and hope for the future. We ended the tour of Soweto at Regina Mundi Catholic Church, the church of Desmond Tutu. We saw the painting of the "Black Madonna of Soweto", the bullet holes in the Church ceiling, and the photos of the distinguished freedom fighters- Nelson Mandela, Steve Biko, and Tsietshi Mashinini. After visiting our tour guide's tiny "matchbox" home, we left Soweto with much emotion. The sounds of revolution are many, and everything seems possible.

### ***Processing it all: chatting in the office back in Arusha***

*Pergola:* So, how did you experience Johannesburg, as it was your first conference and I've been to so many?

*Sululu:* It was great to see so many people from all over the world. Indigenous people from South America...Maasais from Kenya. But, the goal of sustainable development is still far away. From what I saw and heard, the world is still planning on using too much of the earth's resources and will cause climate changes, pollution, forests being lost. It was very interesting to hear the discussion about the genetically modified foods being shipped and rejected by the Zambian government and farmers. I learned a lot at that session.

*Pergola:* What did you learn from other indigenous peoples you met?

*Sululu:* I learned that many of them suffer from the same problems as the Maasai in Tanzania. Many of their lands are being sold off for fast cash and promise for a better life, only to see that this doesn't work. On top of that, many of their rights are still being taken away without considering how to really develop sustainably.

*Pergola:* Do you have plans for sharing your experiences with fellow Tanzanians?

*Sululu:* Yes, I have been talking with people one-on-one about what biodiversity is, how important it is. And to teach our children about it. Also how important culture is, because so many people in the world don't seem to have strong culture anymore. An important message is to tell people that it is clear that biodiversity of cultures and environment go together. When one is lost, the other is lost too. I have a question for you...Why do people say Africa is poor? It is not important for some people to live on a dollar a day, some don't use money at all.

*Pergola:* That is the World Bank's and United Nation's definition of poverty. They measure development using the yardstick of America and Europe and some Asian economies.

*Sululu:* But Africa is rich with natural resources, with communities, with culture.

*Pergola:* Yes, but in the global economy of today, those things don't seem to be valued. Look, even here in Tanzania, isolated from the international community for years, many are abandoning their traditions in the search for acquiring many material possessions.

*Sululu:* Many people at the Summit have the message for America to accept that some cultures are different than their own. They need to accept the biodiversity of cultures. We have our own way of doing things and they should let us grow that way. What did you learn at the Summit?

*Pergola:* Well, while international policy is important on some level, especially when it creates a clear path for nations to follow in conserving their natural resources and improving the livelihoods of their peoples, the current path is far from becoming clear. In fact, it looks like it has gotten muddier. There are many people still committed to encouraging Heads of State to agree on clear road signs for the path(s), I encourage them to keep their energy going. However, the rest of us and the earth can't wait for this itinerary to be made. All of us working in the grassroots sustainable development community know what the signs say, after all, we have been doing this work for quite some time and have not been distracted by how to plan a war or save an ailing economy. My message is to keep on keeping on at the local level. I met and saw many very positive, exciting people and projects that have been succeeding all over the world to improve the lives of people and ecosystems. For example, a project in India where a local community learned how to harvest rainwater during the monsoon rains and had enough water to grow surplus crops of fruits and vegetables to sell and pay for their children's school fees. It can be done, and, I believe, following these leads gives us small hope at a time of incredible uncertainty in this world.

*Sululu:* Anything else?

*Pergola:* In one sense, we've come a long way. Ten years ago at the Rio summit the conversation was focused primarily around the "natural" world. People were not central to the dialogue. Now, the theme was "People, Planet, Prosperity". This trio did make it all a bit overwhelming though. In many ways, it is just best to stick to the small is beautiful, local projects that really make a difference. So much of the talking was at the level of impressing each other with potential ideas. While policy change is very important, it will only happen after a massive groundswell of public opinion change aimed at altering politicians' viewpoints. In the meantime, there should be more people aimed at *doing* things, in fact, we need an *army* of people working at the local level, putting to use all the helpful environmental science that has been collected over the years.

While all social movements (by necessity?) begin by aggressively attacking something - remember the civil rights movement, the women's movement - successes are achieved only after compromises are made between the once powerful and once powerless. This is not a "sell-out", but rather a subtle shift of power, balancing out the forces. Hasn't the environmental/sustainable development movement been going on long enough to reach a point now where the time for compromises and peaceful redistribution of power and resources has arrived? Instead of continuing to throw spears, it is time to make handshakes.

There are certainly new words entering the conversation – “partnerships, win-win relationships” - in theory referring to partnerships between previously strange bedfellows. It is unclear how many of these new teams got created at Jo-burg, perhaps we will see in the near future as these are the things that happen over cocktail party conversations and cups of Rooibus tea and not in front of the TV cameras. There are glimmers of hope in this arena, and that is what I hold onto.



## Board of Directors and Staff

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Lekoko Ole Sululu - Co-Director  
Onesmo Kishapuy – Board member  
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Zawadi David – Research assistant  
Kephias M. Ndiamasi – Community forester

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William Kaondo	Samwel Nashuma
Stephen Kimbele	Yunus Rafiki
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“It’s very, very important for us to take action at the local level. Because sometimes when we think of global problems, we get disempowered. But when we take action at the local level, we are empowered.”

- Wangari Maathai, quoted in documentary film, *A Quiet Revolution*, sponsored by Soka Gakkai International ([www.sgi.org](http://www.sgi.org)), Japan.

