



First Term

2009

Seed Update

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Hello 2009

It feels like we started 2009 at a jog: We are working with 18 schools as part of the Organic Classroom Programme, getting ready to facilitate our first Accredited Applied Permaculture Training and writing another chapter of Growing the Living Laboratory that links garden based entrepreneurial projects to the Economic Management Science learning area in the national curriculum.

We are enjoying the following new team members: Bood Carver has stepped in as Lead Facilitator for Nursery Phase schools in the Cape Flats, he is ably partnered by Yoliswa Mahobe, who moves from the position of Permaculture Learner to Co-facilitator. We also welcome Theophilus Oldjohn, who takes the reigns of the Intermediate Phase, which focuses on developing garden based entrepreneurial systems for education and natural capital development. Carvine Guyo continues to refine our financial systems and deal with the organized chaos of SEED Headquarters and Leigh Brown has moved back to Cape Town to be closer to SEEDs Cape Flats' node.

We are working closely with Alex Kruger, who is mentoring new facilitators and monitoring and evaluating project delivery. In Nottingham Road, Kabuli Eidin Griffin is facilitating the Organic Classroom at Kings Primary and Nottingham Road Combined School. Eidin brings a lot of joy to everything and this is resulting in exciting and joyful starting with the design process. Tina de Waal steps in for her 2nd year facilitating the Outdoor Classroom, this year sees her working with Sefeking and Bathabile Primary Schools in Johannesburg.

On the funding front we are so happy to have solid support behind us. In these harsh financial times we are really grateful to be growing. We thank Murray & Roberts for their backing the growing national programme. They are supporting six schools in three nodes (Cape Town, Nottingham Road, Johannesburg). Garden Africa has also come back into the ring for a second time – this time towards the development for another two chapters in the Growing the Living Laboratory: EMS and another one on Mapping and Design linked to Geography. We welcome Planet Wheeler (our first Face Book funding.) We also acknowledge Wesbank for their core funding of 3 years allowing us to really focus on programme delivery.

GAUTENG, node report

Tina De Waal is working with the following two schools:

Sefeking Primary, Leeukop Prison

This is a school inside a prison that serves 387 learners from Diepsloot. All 11 educators have been active in the Stakeholder Analysis and Design process. The area chosen for the garden has a slope and systems will be intense. The prison is proving to be a valuable resource: we are already buying cow manure from them and we will be able to use prison labor if needed. They have an existing vegetable garden and we will now implement Permaculture systems around this as well as enriching the garden itself.

Bathabile Farm School, Laezonia

This small farm school educates 880 learners with 18 educators; so the maximum ratio is 130 learners per class. In some classes children sit 3 per chair. The soup kitchen has many mouths to feed and the principal and educators are committed and excited to be working with SEED. The on-ground design includes swales for windbreaks and erosion control, an intense food garden, an Outdoor Classroom and a food forest.

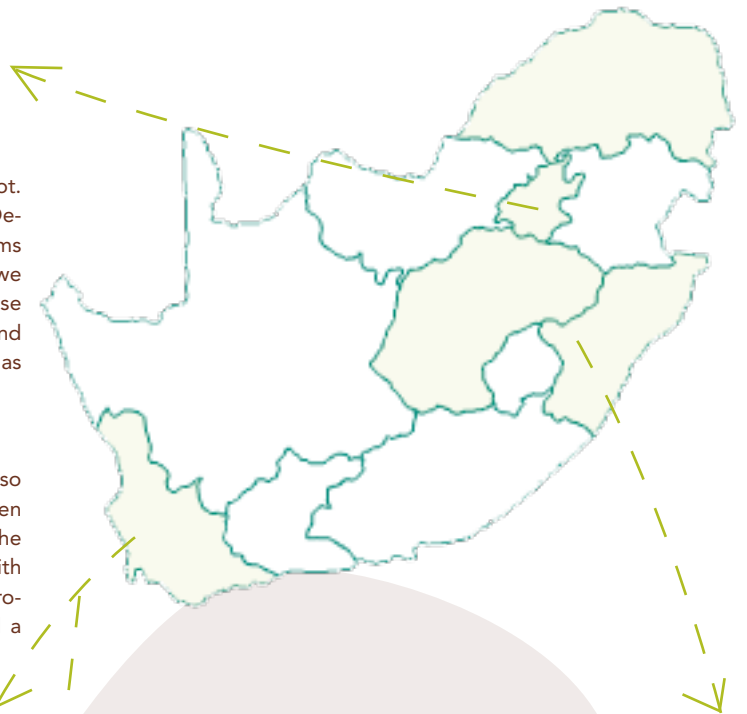
CAPE FLATS, nursery phase report

This year we are finding it exciting to really be getting the methodologies and processes streamlined. We are working with 8 new schools – bringing Permaculture systems for Education alive. We have already held our introduction to Permaculture slide show so that everybody knows what is involved. We have also held a consultative design process and confirmed the Permaculture design as well the linked Education schedule for the year ahead. We now begin to build Outdoor Classrooms as our first Implementation. We believe this makes the intention of the project, Permaculture for Education, very clear.

The classrooms are designed to provide shaded seating for 45 learners and provide comfortable space for teachers to teach lessons in the garden and also for SEED facilitators to deliver lessons and gather learners before an implementation exercise. Surrounding the classroom are snack plants: Cape gooseberry, granadilla, cherry tomatoes so that learners can snack while they learn.

CAPE FLATS, Intermediate phase report

Six schools now begin to look at the natural capital around them and turn this into an entrepreneurial project. This project provides learners with a real example where they can learn Economic Management Sciences (EMS) and also provides opportunity for community members to join the economic cycle. Rocklands' Primary is looking into a mushroom project using used coffee grounds as a substrate. Heinz Park is researching medicinal plants and products while Caravelle is planning a small production nursery. The on-ground work in the Intermediate Phase sees the continued enrichment of existing Permaculture systems and the school getting thoroughly to grips with the cycles of the food garden so that they are truly running the project and SEED can begin to withdraw support.



KWA ZULU, node report

Both KZN schools are situated on the famous Midlands Meander route. Tens of thousands of people visit the area each year, for its scenic beauty and it's well promoted cultural events.

The two schools working with SEED have been chosen for their dedication and perseverance to improving their schools and the lives of their learners. The principals and the educators are committed and passionate about environmental education and are thrilled at being chosen by SEED for the pilot KZN project.

King's School, Nottingham Road, KZN

King's School is a unique rural school with a history of liberalism, environmental education and creative thinking. The school currently has 2 resident dogs, 2 pigs, some chickens and quite a lot of wildlife on its grounds. Sightings of chameleons, duiker, eagles and children are common. The school began its Permaculture program last year and hosted a SEED workshop for educators in July 2008. This year the children are designing their Outdoor Classroom to include a pizza oven and a marble run! They have also planned to make a Permaculture movie and even a Green Dream Event to include learners and educators from other schools to participate in a day of learning and greening.

Nottingham Road Combined School

Nottingham Road Combined School is well known for their incredible troupe of traditional dancers who can do dances from Lesotho, Swaziland as well as local Zulu dancing. The school had a 74% Matric pass rate in 2008. Many learners travel far on remote rural dirt roads to get to school. The school is fortunate to have a wetland and a river running through its grounds. The learners keep the river clean and the grounds litter free. Principal, Thami Sokhela is a keen gardener and can be found at the local nursery browsing and asking lots of questions. The learners and educators have plans to build their Outdoor Classroom with a braai area and in future to build a farm stall to catch the passing traffic on the busy R103.



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