

## Newsletter No.6 – December 2018

Dear Members,  
Dear Donors,  
Dear Volunteers,  
Dear Sympathizers of the Support Association to the Mubaya Ecovillage,

Thanks to your support the ecovillage community is expanding. First, the ecovillage has been able to increase its collaboration with neighbouring homesteads. Then, four habitants deepened their knowledge about permaculture during a training organized this summer (page 1). Our friends also organized a workshop with their neighbours to set up a common strategy for 2020 (page 2). To conclude this busy year, our project manager, Michael Mubaya, participated from November 12 to 21 in a training session organized by the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN); he also joined a meeting with other members of this network in Harare.

The news of our association in Switzerland is also rejoicing: a trip to the Mubaya ecovillage is planned in 2020 and various products from the ecovillage are now available for sale (page 3). In addition, information concerning the next general meeting on March 23, 2019 is available on page 5.

Please enjoy this publication. Already now, we wish you happy holidays!

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### News from Zimbabwe

#### Permaculture design course

***Four experienced Mubaya farmers undertook continuous training in permaculture last July.***

Permaculture requires a wide range of knowledge, from soil management to climate change considerations. This is why four habitants from Mubaya decided to follow a continuous training from July 17 to 27 in the region of the Chimanimani mountains, located towards the border of Mozambique. The courses, given by experts such as Julious Piti and John Nzira, covered both theoretical and practical aspects, including several visits to neighboring ecovillages. In addition to agriculture, the participants perfected the practices of animal husbandry, water management, land sketching and financial management. *“Sharing my point of view with different people helped me to solve my problems on a daily basis”*, said Cathrine Mubaya after the training.



Michael Mubaya with the 4 diplomas (left to right):  
Malvin and Samuel Meda,  
Cathrine and Davison Mubaya.

#### More information:

Report on the permaculture design course: Click [here](#)

PORET (the organizing association of the permaculture training: Click [here](#)

## The ecovillage community is growing

***A workshop organized at the Training and permaculture awareness centre in the Mubaya ecovillage brought together 22 representatives from the neighbouring households to develop a common strategy by 2020.***

More than twenty people participated in the workshop organized by Mr. Matimba Bornface of the National Permaculture Centre of Fambidzanai (Harare). The objective was to strengthen the collaboration between the inhabitants of the homesteads of the Mubaya village in order to become an ecovillage.

This participatory workshop allowed the residents to strengthen their team spirit and identify possible obstacles to the establishment of an ecovillage composed of several homesteads. This initiative is fully in line with the vision set out by the founders of the ecovillage, namely the establishment of a solid community, based on agro-ecology, the proactive participation of residents, gender equality and greater autonomy in dealing with the instable economic situation that Zimbabwe is currently experiencing.



The training brought together 22 participants from 16 homesteads neighbouring the ecovillage.

### More information:

The vision of the Mubaya Ecovillage for 2016-2020: Click [here](#)

Report on the workshop: Click [here](#)

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## Work on the dam

***Thanks to the fundraising campaign carried out by our association in 2017, the construction of the dam is about to be finished.***



The support of our association has made it possible to rent excavators, which were necessary to excavate the dike.

A dam has enabled the inhabitants of the Mubaya village to obtain water for generations. Due to the increasingly frequent droughts, the installation was damaged, also by termites.

As water is, of course, essential in allowing the ecovillage to develop, works to repair the dam was needed. The money raised by our association has made it possible to rent the equipment needed for this project, even while Zimbabwe is currently going through a major economic crisis. That is why the inhabitants of the ecovillage warmly thank you for your help, which will make it easier for them to capture water as the rainy season has started in Zimbabwe.

# News from Switzerland

## Trip to Zimbabwe in 2020



The Support Association to the Mubaya Ecovillage Zimbabwe will soon celebrate its fifth anniversary. When founded on December 20, 2015, the association set itself the objective of supporting Michael Mubaya in transforming his home village into an ecovillage by 2020. Since then, a number of projects have been set up to achieve this goal: planting fruit trees, supplying drinking water by solar pumping, raising villagers' awareness of permaculture, etc.

For its fifth anniversary, the association is organizing a one-week trip to Zimbabwe from April 4 to 11, 2020, to offer any interested people the opportunity

to visit the Mubaya ecovillage. Through various meetings, visits and common activities (working in gardens and fields, drying local products, etc.), the association offers everyone the unique opportunity to discover the ecovillage, and even to cultivate their permaculture skills for the more experienced people. The days will essentially consist of moments of exchange and sharing.

For organisational reasons, we would like to know the approximate number of people interested in this project as well as the type of activities sought. Therefore, we kindly ask you to complete the questionnaire **by January 11, 2019** (link below). The answers will allow us to establish a programme that best reflects the wishes of the participants. It will be presented at the general assembly on March 23, 2019. We would also like to inform you that a meeting with our project manager, Michael Mubaya, is planned in Biel/Bienne for September 1, 2019.

To fill the survey please click on the button below. As it is only available in German and French feel free to contact us for any further information: [contact@mubayaecovillagezimbabwe.org](mailto:contact@mubayaecovillagezimbabwe.org)

[Click here](#)  
(French)

[Click here](#)  
(German)

## Ecovillage products to order now

***Artisanal products and food produced in the ecovillage will be available from July 2019.***

The inhabitants of the ecovillage offer you the following products:

- ***Handmade picnic blankets***
- ***Organic food: lemongrass tea, dried white cabbage, hot pepper, rosemary and dried tomatoes***

Feel free to send us back the order form by post or e-mail before **April 1, 2019** (click on the button below). As the articles come from Zimbabwe, they will be sent to you by post, to Switzerland and to neighbouring countries, after July 2019.

There's nothing like food to enjoy the fruits of your support for the Mubaya ecovillage!



[Click here](#)

## Call for collaboration with agricultural students

For several years, our association has been in contact with Swiss agronomists and engineers to support the ecovillage in several innovative projects.

This is the case with the Biochar project, which aims to develop a coal-based fertilizer. The association has recently contacted people of several institutions to study the feasibility of collaborating with Master students and residents of the Mubaya ecovillage.

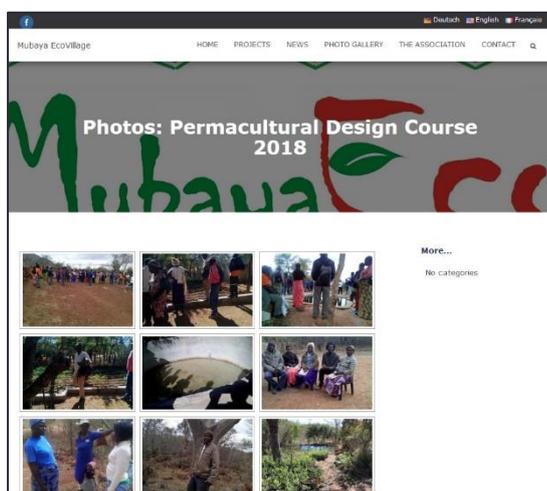
If you know of any potential students who are interested in working with the Mubaya ecovillage, please do not hesitate to contact us at the following address:

[contact@mubayaecovillagezimbabwe.org](mailto:contact@mubayaecovillagezimbabwe.org)



Biochar is one of the projects likely to arouse the interest of agricultural students in Switzerland.

## Translation of the website



The content of our association's website is being translated into French and English, after having been updated at the beginning of 2018.

In addition, several photo galleries are now available on our [Website](#) and on our [Facebook](#) page, offering a good way to follow permaculture work and other ecovillage activities on a daily basis.

We would like to thank all those who regularly contribute to improving the association's visibility on the Internet and social networks!

## Future events

### General Assembly 2019

*On March 23rd, 2019 at 5 pm.*

**At Selbsthilfe/Info-Entraide premises in Biel/Bienne**

***Bahnhofstrasse 30 | Rue de la Gare 30***

In addition to the usual statutory points, we will welcome **Mr Matawa Wendlin Keller**, coordinator of the Swiss Permaculture Association. Mr Keller will inform us about his two-week visit to the Mubaya ecovillage at the end of 2018, as well as his crowdfunding project in favour of the ecovillage.

If you are interested in Mr. Keller's experience, please note that a **trip to Zimbabwe** for anyone interested is planned for April 2020 (more information on page 3). A provisional programme will be presented at the General Assembly.

Additional information concerning the General Assembly will be communicated to you at the beginning of 2019.

We look forward to seeing you there!

**We thank you warmly for your financial support, which also allows the ecovillage to address the actual economic crisis in Zimbabwe due to inflation.**

**We wish you all the very best for the holiday season!**



**Support Association to the Mubaya Ecovillage Zimbabwe | Beundenweg 52 | CH-2503 Biel**

*[contact@mubayaecovillagezimbabwe.org](mailto:contact@mubayaecovillagezimbabwe.org) | [www.mubayaecovillagezimbabwe.org](http://www.mubayaecovillagezimbabwe.org)*

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