

Resident Permaculture Teacher and Design Consultant Wanted for Training and Local Community Development Initiatives in Konso, Southern Ethiopia.

BACKGROUND

The **Strawberry Fields Eco-Lodge (SFEL)** project is currently under establishment in the **Konso Special Woreda**, southern Ethiopia, and expected to begin full operation in November 2008. SFEL hosted 2 full PDCs, given by Rosemary Morrow and Dan Palmer in May and June 2008. SFEL is now compiling a series of regular courses in **Permaculture** and **Income Generating Activities** (micro business management and practical job skills – carpentry, plumbing, electrics) for local community and regional and national level agricultural and development workers, as well as to offering Permaculture training to foreigners. SFEL is also cooperating with local partner organisations on projects design for food security and resource management including community gardens, Permaculture in schools and handicrafts production and marketing. We are currently seeking experienced **Permaculture trainers**, with interest in local community development in Africa who do not seek great financial gains but desire to contribute to the project objectives and assist its beneficiaries.

More info on SFEL:

http://permaculture.org.au/project_profiles/africa/strawberry_fields_eco-lodge_ethiopia.htm

REQUIREMENTS

ESSENTIAL

- A diploma or equivalent level qualification/experience in Permaculture Design and Application
- 3 or more years practical experience of managing farms and/or gardens, including applying permaculture techniques.
- Have an interest in learning and teaching new techniques through skill sharing and participatory activities.
- Have a willingness (and ability) to learn foreign languages (Amharic and Afaan Konso).
- A **tough character** and a willingness to **rough it** when necessary. This is Ethiopia, one of the poorest countries on earth, so please don't bother to apply if you need an eider-down duvet and silken sheets. Infrastructure and communications are terrible, hygiene and sanitation are poor, and as a foreigner you are often seen as a walking dollar (however there is almost ZERO violence, unlike some other African countries, and you will always be safe, though you may be cheated). We are here to help remedy this situation so don't expect to arrive and find the job already done!

PREFERRED

- An ability to work with and through translators and to explain concepts in simplified terms which are comprehensible to uneducated (including illiterate) individuals.
- Experience of visiting (and preferably working in) Africa or at least in other in other third world countries such as India or S. America.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The successful applicant for this post shall undertake the following responsibilities upon assumption of the position:

PRIMARY

- To lead PDC's (12 day) and introductory courses (3 and 6 day) on Permaculture, on a regular basis (1 to 2 courses per month), given to groups of 15-30 people, including individuals with a range of levels of education and a range of mother tongues, sometimes teaching through translators and sometimes directly in English.

SECONDARY

- To assist with farm management (of the on-site PC demonstration farm) and development of design solutions for problems encountered on-site, through cooperative discussion with the other staff involved in the farm management, and to oversee the implementation of the designs produced, as and where necessary.
- To assist with project design for off-site initiative in schools and local community gardens in cooperation with local partners and other project staff.
- To learn about Kosno's renowned indigenous agricultural system and its current degeneration. To help contribute to improving resource management techniques for the area and the robustness local production to increasingly unstable weather patterns (drought) by improving water-management practices and energy saving practices such as wood-saving and biogas production.

REIMBURSEMENT: \$250/month + Accommodation (full board), [We cannot cover flight costs since the project is at startup and the budget very limited in the first year of operation. However, if possible, we may be able to assist with the outbound leg of the journey if the full contractual term is completed, especially if it is extended to 18 months or 2 years.]

CONTRACT DURATION: 1 Year (a 3 months trial period also possible and the contract can also be extended upon completion if both parties agree)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: October 1st 2007 (please get them in early though and we may take you sooner)

Please Submit a CV and letter of application to Kenelm (Alex) McCausland at alex1mcc@yahoo.com or get in touch for more information on the project's area and its objectives.