



# ***Forest Gardens for All***

*"All the world's problems can be solved in a garden."*

- Geoff Lawton, Australian Permaculture Teacher

## **Project Aims:**

1. To popularise the UN Sustainable Development Goals through the establishment of Forest Gardens in schools and communities across Africa.
2. To build mass youth & community participation in activities that regenerate the earth and protect nature, rather than the opposite.
3. To promote social cohesion and intergenerational dialogue.

## **Background**

Forest gardens (also termed food forests, or edible forest gardens) are a form of sustainable agriculture that mimics natural woodland ecosystems. All the plant species in a forest garden are of direct or indirect benefit to humans.

The main yields are edible food crops, along with lesser produce such as plants used for fiber, timber or medicine. Forest gardening involves polyculture planting, ideally to create mutually beneficial relationships between neighboring plants (guilds).

Sustained by the delicate yet powerful balance of natural living cycles, the multiple layers of a forest garden provide for each other the same way the layers of a natural forest do.

In this regard, forest gardening fosters biodiversity.

Careful planning will also take into account the succession that may take place in the forest garden system.

## Project Stages

- Map all relevant stakeholders - local government depts (education, environment ministry, social development), local social development NGOs, corporate partners, etc
- Work with stakeholders to develop blended learning curriculum tailored to children, teenagers & adults (Theory: SDGs / Practical: Permaculture Forest Gardening / Online: Relevant Websites, Films & Youtube Channels)
- In collaboration with stakeholders, formulate process for selecting 10 schools & 10 community groups/NGOs in South Africa to become 1st year cohort of Rainbow Warriors Forest Gardens.
- Collaborate with interested teacher(s) & community leaders to identify at least 20 learners per school / 20 community members per site who will become primary custodians of the RWI Forest Garden.
- Collaborate with teachers, learners & community members to co-design and establish new Forest Garden with between 200 & 400 species of edible & medicinal plants, shrubs, herbs, trees and annual crops. .
- Each forest garden build to include designated areas for garden work (eg. Greenhouse, Storage Shed, Tree Nursery) outdoor learning, fun and relaxation (eg. swings, wooden benches & tables, etc)
- Once established, each Forest Garden will become a site for our expert instructors/counsellors to facilitate a 10 - 12 month programme of workshops on topics such as: *Basic Soil Analysis, How Trees Make Rain and Cool the Climate, Why Compost is So Cool, How to Farm Earthworms, How & Why to Harvest Rainwater, How to Identify & Prepare Indigenous Wild Foods, How to Build an Insect Hotel to Attract Beneficial Insects & other creatures to Your Forest Garden, How to Make Your Food Your Medicine, What Lies Beneath: The Magic of the Soil-Food Web, Why and How to Build a Pond for Aquatic Plants & Fish, Understanding the Micro-climates in your Forest Garden, Companion Planting, Agriculture vs Permaculture, Medicinal Plants & Herbs, Improve Soil Health to Improve Your Health, Seed Saving, How to Grow Plants from Cuttings, What is the Industrial Food System, How Energy gets from the Sun to You, Mushrooms & Fungi - The Internet of the Forest, How to Build an Aquaponics System, How to Build a Rocket Stove, Upcycling & Recycling, Simple Ways to Preserve Your Harvest for Later Use, How to Build a Fireproof House from Straw & Clay, The Magic of Woodchips, etc.*
- Each workshop will be highly interactive and tailored to the age of the target group.
- We will make a documentary about this project and its impact, and use it to raise funds for expansion to further sites in Year 2 & beyond.

**Estimated Project Cost:** US\$ 300 000 / 2 035 200 Kr (Year 1)

## **Project Partners / Collaborators / Funders**

### 1. [Rainbow Warriors International \(RWI\)](#)

Rainbow Warriors International is a South African-registered non-profit organisation that employs whole systems thinking to finding holistic solutions to the most intractable social and environmental problems.

We have a network of expert counsellors/facilitators who are able to educate our project beneficiaries about the many ways they can thrive in a warming world.

Designed for children, teenagers and adults of every age, our blended learning curriculum includes topics such community urban gardening, urban greening, no-till farming, organic waste management, small-scale renewable energy production, holistic animal husbandry, large-scale ecosystem restoration, rainwater harvesting, drought-resilience, and sustainable building design and construction.

We demonstrate how waste materials such as old tyres and plastic bottles can be used to build off-grid homes, greenhouses and composting toilets. We show people how to make compost from kitchen scraps.

We work across government, academia and the private sector to ensure the success of our projects. Regular feedback sessions with our counsellors and beneficiary communities helps us to monitor and evaluate the impact of our workshops and training.

We are looking for collaborators who want to help save the world for future generations.

### 2. [Crossing Borders](#)

Crossing Borders is a Danish-registered non-profit, civil society organization. Crossing Borders educates and empowers young people to become active global citizens.

Across cultures and professions, we provide platforms for young people to cross-fertilise ideas and form global associations, networks, and communities worldwide.

In a learning environment where all participants are encouraged to grow and learn from one another, we enable youth to share their best ideas, best products, and best practices.

Crossing Borders believes in a world where young people see themselves and are seen by society as active global citizens whose human, civic and social rights are integrated and mainstreamed in the development policies of their home countries.

### 3. [Mindset Network](#)

**Mindset Network**, simply known as **Mindset** is an African Educational Technology and Media NGO Nonprofit organization and a digital satellite television free-to air channel launched in 2003. Working across Africa. It was launched to educate and improve health in [South Africa](#) uplift and empower communities with various Educational and Health initiatives and interventions.

The organisation works with Government, International Donors and blue-chip corporates to deliver impactful, sustainable and practical change to the developmental challenges that communities face.

It develops, sources, distributes and uses digital content.

Its multimedia content is distributed via broadcast television, IP based satellite [datacast](#), the web, distributable media (hard drives, DVDs and CDs) and mobile networks.