



# Permaculturestation Andasibe

In cooperation with:

[permakultur.ch](http://permakultur.ch)

[mitsinjo.org](http://mitsinjo.org)

## Building a permaculture farm with permaculture school in Andasibe / Madagascar

The aim of the project is to create in Andasibe, Madagascar, a pilot project on the model of permaculture.

Practically, this means building a small rural model-farm as well as the infrastructure for the education of the local population.

Here also two local professionals should be trained to enable long-term knowledge transfer.

Traditional agriculture in Madagascar is no longer sustainable, among others, by the sharp increase in population and thus destroyed the last remaining natural forests. The poverty-related clearing of the forest by burning and logging is responsible for a significant part of the environmental degradation. More than the mining business and the noble timber mafia.

The demonstration of agricultural alternatives for the people is at the same time an effective conservation!

- How you managed areas in the long term?
- What stops you erosion?
- How do you repair destroyed, barren land?

Through the application of the permaculture principles we can achieve many synergy effects.

- The pressure on the natural systems decreases, shifting cultivation is terminated.
- The poverty decreases, as we invest long term. The life situation improves.
- The climate is positively influenced what both locally and globally is important (water cycles, CO<sup>2</sup> cycles).
- A base for further developments is set.

## The Project:

In cooperation with Mitsinjo, an already established conservation organization in place, a suitable piece of land is wanted for lease. By working closely with Mitsinjo, the project will be well integrated locally. In addition, building on experience in the fields of agro-forestry and intensified rice cultivation (SRI). Established structures can be used. The aim is to ensure a peasant family to earn a living and thus to be a practical, positive example for the region. There will be a kind of commons agreement with the family.

When the permaculture station is established, we offer regular courses. Two young people are trained, which can be employed as professionals then both locally and across the country. They will do this on behalf of the project. Their main task will be to visit other villages or NGOs and so spread the knowledge. There is already strong interest from Conservation International Fianarantsoa, that already supported a number of small farmer projects. Existing structures can therefore be used effectively to pass on the knowledge.

For the permaculture station a forest garden, a house, a chicken farm, forestry and possibly a fish pond is built. Swales (water retention) will be created for renaturation. The humus for the subsequent management is rebuilt by pioneer trees, which itself are than used further.

The project is set up in the first 4-6 months from the permaculture designer Lukas Uhl. Then farm and school should be designed and built and all the necessary will be trained employees. They will then manage the project further, thus ensuring its sustainability. Long term support will be guaranteed.

## Expiration

The first three months are used for selection of the land and the construction of the farm, followed by one to three months of intensive training of professionals.

From the construction team of 10 people, two will be selected as future professionals. They will be trained to pass on the knowledge as teachers in the station and consultants for other projects and villages.

Through travelling the country, the trained professionals can get an insight into the national context and an understanding of relationships between the big and the small picture. The family is to be formed so far that they can independently manage the farm - including marketing of the products in the local market.



## Prior experience:

In 2012 Lukas Uhl has started a project in the port city of Tamatave.

It was around 350m<sup>2</sup> school garden, with plant nursery, pond and hill beds. The idea was to produce 4,000 fruit trees a year to plant them in the surrounding slum. Furthermore, the plan was to teach the children productive vegetable gardening. The project was carried out in full, two teachers trained and employed. The total set up of the project was one month, the teachers paid for one first year.

Due to a severe cyclone the project came to an abrupt end. When visited again it was clear that in the the slum there was no drainage for several weeks, under water now all the crops died.

The bottom line is: We want to set up a stable base before going in difficult areas like slums again. Therefore, first, to be set up a base with a strong project partner (Mitsinjo) and in more stable rural communities. From there, activities can be done nationally, for example an drainage system in the slum and the rebuilding of the school-garden.

## The partner:

Mitsinjo is an important regional organization for many years in the field of nature conservation and species protection. Initiated by Malagasy people and by biologist Rainer Dolch from Germany, Mitsinjo is today internationally connected with other NGOs, universities and other scientific institutions. Thanks to BBC, Mitsinjo has a worldwide recognition and reputation in the field of wildlife conservation and afforestation with local tree species.

In Mitsinjo, the importance of economic alternatives for small farmers have been recognized early, Mitsinjo works for years with small farmers. The Permaculture as a method is considered an important building block for linking conservation and sustainable development. Mitsinjo has therefore agreed to support the permaculturestation logistically and technically. So already several pieces of land have been identified in the region of Andasibe, that could fit for the project. In the longer term beneficial synergies can be created for all sides.

See also: [www.mitsinjo.org](http://www.mitsinjo.org)

## Sustainability:

The permaculturestation should be self-sustainable in the medium term. After the construction and startup financing by the family they will be independent of external funds. In exchange, or lease, the family will keep the project's own infrastructure and the natural forest repaired. The station is then independent of external money. External money can

therefore be used for additional investments and scholarships. If successful, the station can be a role model for farmers in the region and provide illustrative material for practical courses. The trained professionals will continue to get an income from the ONG tany maitso (Madagascar). They will work as a planner and project managers nationwide.

Through cooperation with existing institutions (nature conservation, Christian missions, orphanages, village councils, SMEs in the agricultural sector, government agencies, etc.) and use of their infrastructure, big work can be done with relatively modest means. We use brain instead of capital.

The project team on site can adjust the methods for local and social realities. Also, this helps a customized, long-term development.

## Finance:

Based on the experience with the local price level in 2012 following a calculation.

Lease:	1500 CHF
Material Housing:	3700 CHF
Tools:	2000 CHF
Plants and seeds:	800 CHF
Wage structure: 10 workers (50CHF employees, 30 CHF food) for two months:	1600 CHF
Honorary Luke (Designer): 6 months times 80 CHF (salary, food):	480 CHF
Start-up financing peasant family:	500 CHF
Supply of students during training:	300 CHF
Travel costs:	800 CHF
Professionals: 12 months a 180 CHF times 2 people (wages, expenses)	4320 CHF
Travel expenses Lukas:	1600 CHF
Unexpected:	1500 CHF
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Total:	19100 CHF

We appreciate your support.

Luke Uhl and Domenic Preukschas on behalf of tany maitso

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The presentation was created by Domenic Preukschas, Lukas Uhl with the assistance of Rainer Dolch. The cover picture is from Lukas Uhl and shows the above-mentioned school garden and the school. The image sections are from the trip in the highlands and of the construction period 2012.