

terrat

Bridging the Indigenous and Modern

A newsletter published by Terrawatu

terrat is a publication of Terrawatu, a non-governmental organization based in Arusha, Tanzania, East Africa and Seattle, Washington, USA. *terrat* is an e-newsletter published quarterly on the solstice and equinox.

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Project updates

Conservation of Medicinal Plants and Indigenous Healing Knowledge



Members of Tree Planting Network discussing plans for increasing production of traditional medicinal plant seedlings.

It is official, Terrawatu is a 2005 recipient of World Bank's Global Fund for Indigenous Peoples. The US\$15,000 grant from the Bank is to be used to conserve traditional Maasai medicinal plant species and establishing traditional medicine clinics staffed by Maasai traditional healers and their apprentices. Generous co-funding from the Tonlie Fund in the amount of US\$10,000 will be used to increase cultivation of plant species and for product development of a medicinal herbal tealing.

These grants will enable Terrawatu to initiate the establishment of new plant nurseries in Arusha region; maintain and boost production in already established nurseries; renovate existing traditional medicine clinics and establish one new clinic; and acquire much-

needed plants to stock the clinics. The entire project budget is estimated at US\$53,125 and Terrawatu is now seeking additional funds and/or in-kind donations to enable the project to: 1) carry-out exchange visits for community "foresters" to teach each other how to reforest their lands with indigenous species; 2) install a rain harvesting system to alleviate water problems; 3) acquire a grinding machine to process medicinal plant matter; 4) further development of medicinal tea product line.

If you would like to find out more about how to support this exciting project either with funding and/or in-kind donations please do not hesitate to contact us at:

In Tanzania:

Telephone +255 (0)748 693826 Email: sululu@terrawatu.org

In United States:

Telephone: +1.206.226.3882 Email: tanya@terrawatu.org

School Partnerships for ICT 4 Development

Both Siwandeti and Ilkiding'a Computer Centers are on their way to becoming self-sustainable. "Local champions" at Ilkiding'a Secondary School are leading the way forward in integrating computers into the curriculum. Secondary school teachers are beginning to use the technology to do their own research for augmenting their lesson plans and are slowly encouraging students to learn basic computer skills.

Funds from a USAID grant have been used to purchase a projector for the centers that will greatly aid in teaching. The IT Network -- a group of computer teachers, classroom teachers and community members -- are working on plans to use the projector as an incoming-generating tool to help maintain the centers.



Ilkiding'a Computer Center is becoming the center of IT activity in the community.

Terrawatu is currently working to upgrade the electricity at Ilkiding'a and the computers at both schools so that the centers can be better used at their full capacity.

Cross-Cultural Journeys



Students from Washington College join in a Maasai Women's Dance during their 17-day safari in Tanzania in May 2005.

Terrawatu lead a customized tour with 12 students and their professor from Washington College in the United States from 28 May – 13 June. In collaboration with partners Global Exchange, this tour began in Monduli, Tanzania with immersion into the natural habitat and social world of the Maasai ethnic group. Participants then visited Terrawatu's project sites in Mkonoo, Siwandeti and Ilkiding'a villages. The tour also included visits to two other NGOs – Women in Action and the United African Alliance Community Center (UAACC).

The group then departed for a more traditional wildlife safari in Tanzania's famous National Parks. The tour concluded with a visit to a coffee-processing site managed by TechnoServe and a service learning project at Ilkiding'a Computer Center.

Discussions were held throughout the tour on economics and politics in Tanzania; conflicts of development and natural resource conservation; traditional spirituality and imported religion; and globalization. Watch for the next issue of *terrat* for an in-depth story about the tour written by one of the participants.

Terrawatu's next tour is set for October 2005. Contact Malia Everette **malia@globalexchange.org** or +1.800.497.1994 at Global Exchange in San Francisco, California to find out more information and/or reserve your place in the tour.

If you, your family, and/or friends would like to book your own customized ecological-cultural safaris into the wildlife areas and indigenous communities in northern Tanzania send us an email at info@terrawatu.org.



Organizational News

Terrawatu's Co-Directors Dr. Tanya Pergola and Lekoko Ole Sululu are consulting with the Harmony Project to establish an African Spa in Karatu, Tanzania. The goal of the project is to combine indigenous East African healing traditions with allopathic wellness systems to create a world-destination spa.

International Advisory Council member April Linton has initiated the sale of Fair Trade African products in the United States. Maasai shukas (blankets) and recycled tire shoes are for sale on eBay and directly from her. Contact: aprillinton@hotmail.com

Friends of Terrawatu in Seattle continue to meet either in-person or on-line to discuss goals and strategies for providing continued support to the organization. Through close communication with staff in Tanzania, the group is able to target fundraising and resource sharing efforts in a useful and meaningful way. To find out when the next meeting is being held email Joni Pecor at jlpecor@seattleschools.org

What You Can Do

There are several ways to get involved in Terrawatu activities:

- ❖ Sponsor a Child's Education. Our Child School Sponsorship program has been very successful. We now have six Tanzanian girls matched-up with sponsors from the United States with promises for more in the near future. A sponsor's financial support helps a girl to successfully complete Primary School and proceed onto Secondary School (not common in Tanzania). More information can be found on our Website − www.terrawatu.org − under Child School Sponsorship (CSS) program.
- ❖ Keep us in mind when you hear about grant opportunities and/or partnering possibilities with other foundations and organizations that work in similar projects as Terrawatu. Many of you have already provided Terrawatu with excellent contacts and recommendations that have helped us grow and blossom. Thank you!
- ❖ Tell your colleagues and friends about our work. Forward this newsletter and Web address - www.terrawatu.org - to those you think may be interested in hearing about Terrawatu.



Recipe- East African specialties

Maharago - Red Beans with Spicy Coconut Sauce

This is a very simple and healthy meal. Make it as spicy as you like by adjusting the amount of red chili. Serve with chapati (see terrat X for recipe) or rice. Also tastes great the next day!

What you need:

- 2 cans red kidney beans, or cooked dried beans
- · half a can of coconut milk
- 3-5 cloves of garlic
- fresh red chili pepper to taste
- chopped fresh coriander (cilantro)
- salt to taste
- 1 small red onion, diced
- few tablespoons cooking oil

What you do:

- 1) Smash the garlic, salt, coriander and chili in a mortar and pestle until roughly mashed.
- 2) Heat cooking oil in saucepan and add diced onion. Sauté until soft.
- 3) Add beans, spices, and coconut milk and simmer for 30 minutes. Add additional water only if necessary to keep from sticking too much.
- 4) Garnish with additional fresh coriander if desired.



Staff and Board of Directors

Lekoko Ole Sululu - Co-Director Tanya Pergola - Co-Director Zawadi David - Research Assistant Osuruni - IT expert Allan Meing'arana - Project Assistant Kimani Mollel - Traditional healer Onesmo Ole Kishapuy - Board member Lodi Larashi - Board member Abraham Lengai - Board member Lilian Titos - Board member

Contact Information

Mailing address:

Terrawatu P.O. Box 2652 Arusha, Tanzania

In Tanzania: +255 748 312202 or 693826

In USA: +1 206 226 3882 Email: info@terrawatu.org Website: www.terrawatu.org

Terrawatu is registered as a charitable, non-governmental organization (NGO) with the Registrar of Societies in The United Republic of Tanzania (So. No. 11220).

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"It is important to nurture any new ideas and initiatives which can make a difference for Africa.."
- Wangari Maathai