



# Food Gardens and Ecology Workshop

*20-22 November 2009*

## **Presenters:**

Entabeni Communications is a leading provider of environmental communications, environmental education and youth tourism services. Entabeni has its home at Entabeni Education Centre in the Giant's Castle area of the central 'Berg and specialises in nature-based environmental learning programmes for schools.

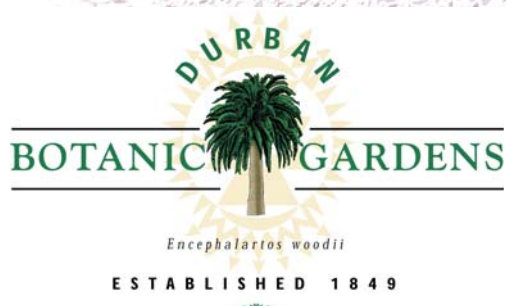
The Durban Botanic Gardens has a long history in the development of interpretive techniques and methods, and education programmes based on plants, their value, biology, ecology and sustainable uses.

## **Course and content:**

The growing and eating of food links us intimately with Nature. Yet many of our conventional farming practices are detrimental to the natural environment and some of the products are bad for our health.

In addition, there is an increasing risk to long-term food security around the world with more and more people going hungry. All of this needs to be viewed within the context of global climate change and the phenomenon of peak oil production and how these factors will shape the future global economy.

There have been many creative and innovative responses to the threatening food crises that achieve food production that is in keeping with basic ecological principles. Permaculture is a revolutionary farming method that works towards this at the same time making the garden not just a source of production, function and aesthetics but as a fundamental systems learning place in which individual and collective cultural identities can be developed and enriched.



This programme looks at issues and practices such as food sovereignty, horticulture, permaculture and ecological literacy together with some collective civic responses that are beginning to take place and which could provide a range of meaningful environmental actions. The course will be of interest to the school teacher, community member, environmental educator, home gardener and anyone interested in a more sustainable and meaningful manner of living.

The following themes will be investigated:

- Ecology & ecoliteracy: how nature works
- Agriculture & environmental risk: the effects of farming on the environment
- Horticulture & basic botany: how plants grow
- Permaculture & principles of ecological design: some ways of growing food sustainably
- Activism & education: gardens as places of learning

The workshop will be held at Entabeni Education Centre. The programme will include discussions, presentations and practical work sessions. Participants will be encouraged to share their own knowledge and experiences.

*The course is limited to 40 participants  
on a first-come, first-served basis*

### **Bookings and enquiries:**

#### **For bookings and information on logistics and accommodation:**

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