



Barbets: tropical
birds



who sing in duet

Barbets Duet

an experiment in systemic invention

Founding Partners

*Barbara Heinzen
James Magode Ikuya
Chris Jones
Rose Lyimo
Mwajuma Masaiganah
Msichoke Seaweed Farmers Cooperative
Sammy Muvelah
Oby & Hilda Obyerodhyambo*

November 2016

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archive of reports: www.barbaraheinzen.com → Barbets

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Philosophy & Principles of Barbets Duet

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Barbets Philosophy – We Believe:

- There **is value** in local & modern knowledge systems from all cultures - North & South
- Restoration of land **requires** the restoration of livelihoods
- We must **experiment**, because:
 - few good models exist
 - every place is different,
 - trial & error is a necessity
- Sharing with each other **accelerates** learning
- Financial & intellectual independence **gives** us more control over what we do.

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Systemic Invention

RULES

Rights, rules & laws,
both customary & modern

MANAGEMENT
Accounts, training,
agreements & patience



MARKETS
Marketing, sales, distribution &
trading

POWER
Gov't relations, powerful
interests

FINANCE
Capital markets
& micro-finance

Oral skills
Local languages
Observation
Listening
Asking

ECOLOGY
Biology, geography & ecology
of natural world

Literate skills
Writing
Visualisation
Mapping
Measurement

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Useful Principles

Barbets Duet Working Assumptions	Initial Governance Principles	Establishing a Barbet Site
Multiple experiments & diverse sites → rapid learning	Each site evolves in its own way to its own conditions.	“Just Begin” With something that bears fruit quickly
Equity & engagement across knowledge, power & culture	There is value in coming together.	Barbet activity is consistent with its site
Give & gain: Everyone has something to give & something to gain.	In coming together, all have a stake and all share responsibility.	Shape environmental ambitions around immediate needs.
Mosaic Rights → support environmental & social goals.	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">We are a Jumuiya</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;"><i>A jumuiya (collective, or constellation) of learning sites experimenting with ways to support people who support the natural world</i></p>	Learning by demonstration
We never gave ourselves a deadline		Thinking step by step; one thing follows on another
		Follow the path of least resistance; start with what is most possible.
		Utu Net Benefits © Barbets Duet

“Rather than ask:
how can Lukenya
support a Friesian cow, I ask:
what can Lukenya support?”
Sammy MuveLah, '18

Diverse Partners & Sites, North & South

experiments begun, conventions & cross-learning, self-financed



James Magode Ikuya
Molo, near Tororo, Uganda





Sammy Muvelah,
Lukenya,
nr Nairobi, Kenya



Oby & Hilda Obyerodhyambo,
Seme, near Kisumu, Kenya





Rose Lyimo,
Himo &
Dar es Salaam,
Tanzania



Barbara Heinzen,
Coordinator, UK &
Hudson R. NY, USA






Msichoke Seaweed Farmers
& Mwajuma Masaiganah,
Mlingotini, Bagamoyo, Tanzania



Chris Jones,
Woodland Valley
Farm, Cornwall, UK





Diverse Ecologies →

→ Diverse Learning



Lukenya, Kenya



Hannacroix Creek, NY, USA



Seme, Kenya



Molo, Uganda



Himo, Tanzania



Mlingotini, Tanzania



Ladock, Cornwall, UK



Lessons Learned

@PebbleDust

Collaborative Learning Is Essential



Invention Convention, Mlingotini, Tanzania - Oct. '09
Discussing new business ideas.

Thinking
& doing



Rose Lyimo at the Hannacroix
Creek, New York 2013



Coming of Age Convention, Molo, Uganda
Discussing the need for fences, Jan. 2016



Visit to Seme, January 2014
Oby Obyerodhyambo & Chris Jones



Lukenya Convention, Kenya January 2014, *Climbing to top of the rock used to collect water for the community dam started by Sammy Muvelah*

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NOTES ON COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

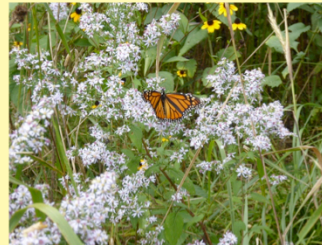
1. Learning rapidly at our individual sites by trying out new ideas, making mistakes, expanding our knowledge and trying again.
2. Learning from the past, such as the traditional systems
3. Learn from each other through visits, conventions, exchanges between the sites and individuals
 - a. Learning from the work at each site.
 - b. Learning from partners trained in business, like Sammy Muvelah and Rose Lyimo
 - c. Learning from the Msichoke Seaweed Growers Cooperative about working together.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

1. We work In our own communities
2. Challenge of being novel in your own communities
3. The story of Molo fish ponds
4. Every site and partner has been finding new ways to engage with their neighbours.
5. The partners believe that as their work succeeds, it will be imitated, creating wider success
6. Sites are 'positive deviants', offering promising alternatives, but often regarded with suspicion, curiosity and envy.
7. Slow process - some neighbours imitating our examples (Lukenya and

Land & Water Management Takes Time



**Good farming is
good restoration**

**Use indigenous
species**

**Recognise & keep
what you have**







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LAND & WATER MANAGEMENT

1. Each site has → specific land/water management issues & solutions
2. Site solutions inspire new thinking in partner sites
3. Managing water; managing land
 - Water harvesting – 2 sites (**Seme** & Lukenya)
 - Flood management – Cornwall beaver dam**
 - Water table restoration – Molo

1. Using indigenous species –
2. Lukenya, Hannacroix, Seme

Coping with the Unexpected

Lukenya Dam Nov. 2012 	Msichoke Seaweed 2016 	Himo canal, TZ 2011 
 Nov 2016: the rains failed	 Port of Bagamoyo & Special Economic Zones To go ahead, January 2016*	 Feb 2016: Kilimanjaro

*Source: Tanzania Invest:
<http://www.tanzaniainvest.com/economy/trade/tanzania-government-confirms-construction-works-of-bagamoyo-port-and-special-economic-zone>

COPING WITH THE UNEXPECTED

Erratic rainfall & weather

Lukenya – failed rains

Seme – failed rains

Molo – unexpected storm

Woodland Valley Farm – floods

Government policies & industrial development affect our sites

Msichoke – Port of Bagamoyo

Hannacroix – Port of Coeymans

Future climate change

Himo – no water in the irrigation canal

Hannacroix – sealevel rise wipes out flood plain swamps & forest

New competitors

Financing Ecosystem Restoration

Medicinal plants, Himo, TZ

Mixed farming, Seme, Kenya

Shamba Darasa – Mwasama School, Bagamoyo, TZ

Savings + grants, UK: beaver project

Pasture-fed meat, UK

Seaweed soap for tourists, Msichoke

Acacia woodlot, Lukenya, Kenya

Fish farming in Molo UG

Barter: hunting rights for management, USA + gov't support (Trees for Tribes)

Multiple businesses spread risk & cross-finance

FINANCING ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

1. largely self-financed

- a. Self-reliance = sustainability
- b. Intellectual & operational independence
- c. Business idea, not a charity

2. Sources of self-financing

- a. Each site is self-financed
- b. Multiple businesses spread risk
- c. Ecosystem services financed by existing businesses

Conclusions

- **Communities are not victims, can be active in destruction & restoration.**
- **Direct payment to local people for the restoration & protection of ecosystem services is required.**

**Who pays &
why should they pay for what they have had for free?**

**Where are the markets to support ecosystem services?
How can new products & markets be created?**

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The Oak Tree Paradox

*Its 'life' value is
very high*

*A mature oak tree can support
284 species of insect,
provide food & nests for birds,
acorns for mice & squirrels,
habitat for fungi.*

Source of photo:
<http://www.treesplanet.blogspot.co.uk/2014/05/quercus-robur-pedunculata-oak-english.html#W/Cum-h4/r18>

*its financial value is only realised once it is cut down.
Today's environmental crisis is the consequence of this paradox.*

Barbets Duet – An Alternative Approach

Presentations

1) Barbets Duet – experiment in systemic invention

8 learning sites in East Africa, USA, UK → mutual learning across boundaries

Individuals working with own land & communities

Improve local environment & livelihoods

Largely self-financed

2) Beneficial insects as pest control around Mt Kilimanjaro

Discussion

- 1) The Oak Tree Paradox
- 2) Self-financing, no donors??? Independence of thought & timescales
- 3) A *Jumuiya* – a collective, not yet an organisation,
- 4) Engaging with communities & managing disputes; the need for fences
- 5) Relating to government & its agencies

Action

Look for ways to work together – circulate an email list

Many similar initiatives are below the radar; how to become better known?

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