gaia education

Design for Sustainability

Final Report
EDE Online Live
Programme name

gaia ede

Gaia Education
Ecovillage
Design Education
Programme

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EDE Final Report: Contents

Course Overview 3

Course Overview (150-300 words): 4

Brief explanation of the background of the organisation, host site. Diversity of participants and facilitators. Main highlights, key success factors and other relevant information that would describe what happened during the EDE. This text will appear at Gaia Education´s web site to describe your programme. 4

Participants (50-150 words): 4

(Basic stats including numbers of participants, age range, gender ratio, countries, ethnicities and backgrounds) 4

Course rhythms (50-150 words): 4

A description of the times of daily activities, sessions, free time, social time, interaction with hosts, rest; how many hours in lectures & practical sessions,etc. 4

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Course Overview

Course Overview (150-300 words): Brief explanation of the background of the organisation, host site. Diversity of participants and facilitators. Main highlights, key success factors and other relevant information that would describe what happened during the EDE. This text will appear at Gaia Education´s web site to describe your programme.

The first **Online EDE - Ecovillage Design Education Online Programme -** held in partnership with Gaia Education was an inspiring and transformative journey. This was, in fact, the 4th online course co-developed and facilitated by Taisa and Macaco, and integrated feedback from the previous programmes.

The EDE was facilitated by two experienced EDE trainers, Taisa Mattos and Macaco Tamerice, together with a group of renowned guest trainers from the global Ecovillage Movement. The guest trainers came from different countries and included several GEESE, such as Kosha Joubert, Albert Bates, Daniel Greenberg, Jonathan Dawson, Helena Norberg-Hodge, Ina Meyer-Stoll, Achim Ecker, Daniel Christian Wahl, John Croft, Anna Kovasna, André Soares, Mugove Nyika, and Tomaz Lotufo.

The group consisted of 20 participants from 14 different countries, bringing together a rich diversity of cultural, professional, and personal backgrounds, as well as extreme timezones. Participants joined from both rural and urban settings and represented different GEN regions, including the USA, Spain, Bangladesh, Peru, Mexico, Vietnam, Romania, Argentina, India, the UK, China, Germany, Australia, and Singapore.

The Online EDE team co-created and facilitated highly interactive sessions using a diverse range of online tools and participatory methodologies, creating opportunities for connection, collaboration, and community-building, seeking to recreate the sense of community and shared experience of an in-person EDE programme.

Highlights:

- The amazing team of trainers from all corners of the world bringing their unique expertise
- The diversity of backgrounds and countries was deeply enriching
- The ability of the team to create community, even online
- The transformative power of the EDE that was life changing for many
- The design group projects
- Knowledgeable and engaged group of participants

Key success factors:

- The quality of the facilitators and the guest facilitators and the synergy and friendship between them created a warm and inspiring learning atmosphere
- Gaia Education`s experienced online courses team who were always there in the background sending links, materials and making sure that the learning journey could run smoothly

Participants (50-150 words):

(Basic stats including numbers of participants, age range, gender ratio, countries, ethnicities and backgrounds)

From 20 participants, the oldest one was 64 years old and the youngest one 25. In terms of gender balance there were 58% female and 42% male. Coming from 14 different countries: USA, Spain, Bangladesh, Peru, Mexico, Vietnam, Romania, Argentina, India, the UK, China, Germany, Australia, and Singapore.

They had diverse backgrounds and most of them were taking the course for personal and professional development and others to create ecovillages.

Course rhythms (50-150 words):

A description of the times of daily activities, sessions, free time, social time, interaction with hosts, rest; how many hours in lectures & practical sessions,etc

The sessions were held every Saturday and also on two Sundays. During the week the Design groups met for about 2 hours.

Usually we started with a warm welcome and the overview of the day and the participants were invited to check in on the chat. We could also hear a few voices while waiting for the entire group to join. We then introduced the guest trainer, if there were, or we continued with the content.

Each session was unique, but frequently we had a structure including: a formal presentation with slides or videos, practical exercises in breakout groups, group reflections in the plenary and time for questions.

During the cultural moments people were singing a song, playing instruments, sharing texts and poems. We also danced and sang together to celebrate our journey and connect in different ways.

Course Schedule:

ONLINE EDE Schedule
from March, 13th to July, 10th at 2pm UTC

Intro Session: Ecovillages: Living Laboratories for the Future	Taisa & Macaco	13/03

SOCIAL DIMENSION

Sessions	Facilitator	Day
Creating Community & Embracing Diversity	Taisa & Macaco	20/03
Leadership & Participatory Decision Making Processes	Taisa & Macaco	27/03
Communication Skills & Conflict Management	Taisa & Macaco	03/04
Dragon Dreaming: co-creating collaborative projects	John Croft	04/04
Personal Transformation and Trauma in Community	Macaco	10/04

ECOLOGICAL DIMENSION

Sessions	Facilitator	Day
Permaculture Design	André Soares	17/04
Green Building & Renewable Energies	Achim Ecker	24/04
Water	Guilherme Castagna	01/05
Food Security	Albert Bates	08/05
		15/05
		*different time

ECONOMIC DIMENSION

Sessions	Facilitator	Day
Shifting from Global Economy to Sustainability	Felipe Alves	15/05
Rethinking Money: Exploring Community-Based Systems	Taisa & Macaco	22/05
Strengthening Local Economies: The Importance of Localization	Helena Norberg-Hodge	29/05
Exploring Economic Models	Sandra	05/06

WORLDVIEW DIMENSION

Sessions	Facilitator	Day
Holistic Worldview & Reconnection with Nature	Macaco Tamerice	12/06
Transformation of Consciousness & Trauma Work	Kosha Joubert	19/06
Designing Regenerative Cultures	Daniel Wahl	26/06
Mini Forum on Regenerative Education	Daniel G, Mugove	03/07
Navigating Global Frameworks: Sustainable Development & Inner Development Goals	Taisa Mattos	10/07

Design Working Groups & Additional Hours

Sessions	Day
Design Group Work: ~ 2 hours per week to be decided by the working groups	
* Design Sessions (in Yellow, integrated to Social, Ecology and Worldview)	
Design Group Presentations + Closing Session	11/07

Highlights & challenges of each dimension

Social Dimension (150-250 words)

What happened in this dimension? What were the highlights? What subjects were covered? 1-2 participant quotes from the Gaia Education Evaluations or other sources. A sentence on each core faculty/facilitator. Include 2-3 pictures.

Social Dimension

During the Social Dimension we learned about Ecovillages, community building and how to embrace different perspectives in order to co-create thriving communities and groups and to develop successful projects. We have explored together key social topics, such as: shared leadership, participatory decision making processes, communication skills, and the importance of having clear group agreements and procedures (especially around conflict management and how to take decisions together).

Topics and trainers:

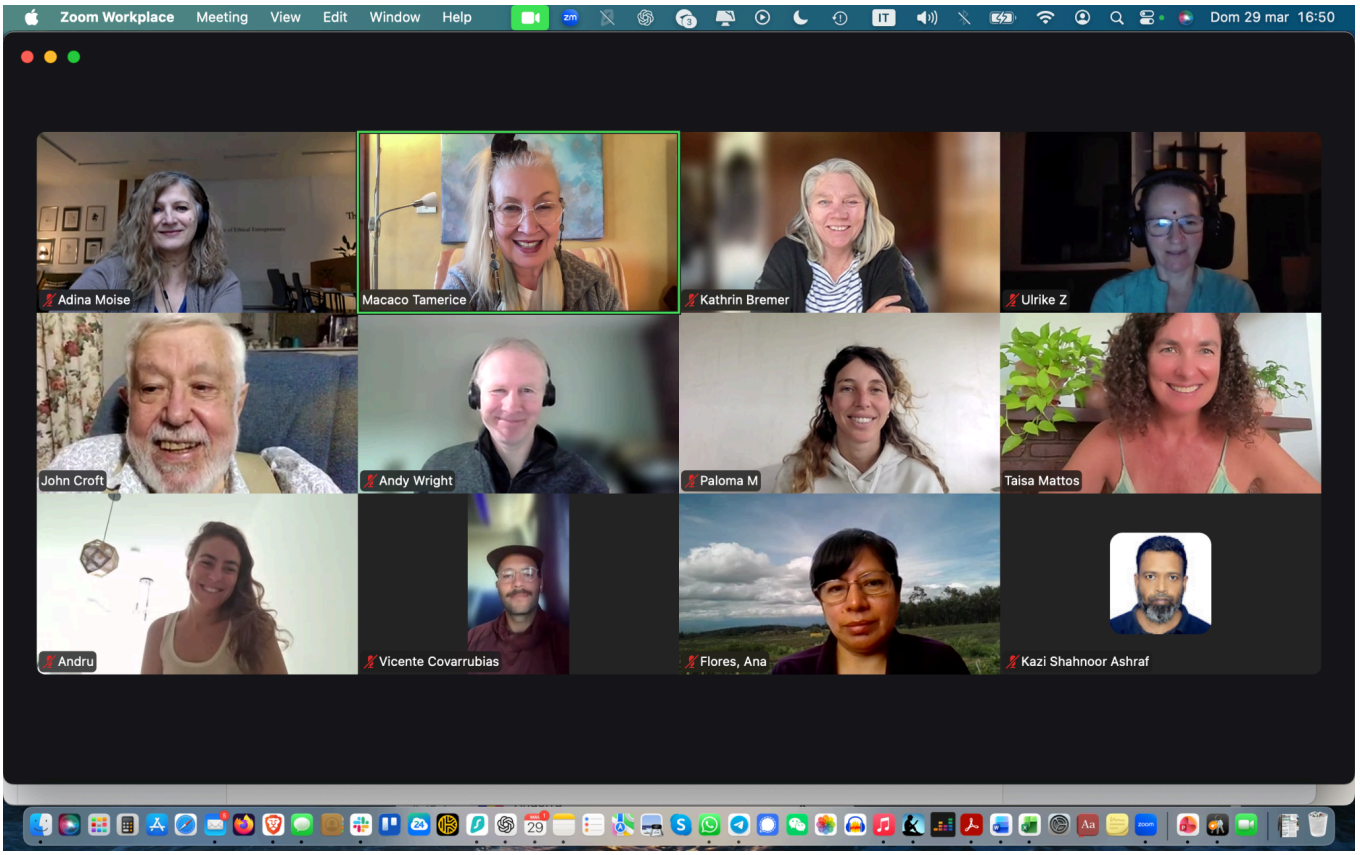
Ecovillages: Living laboratories for the Future - Macaco Tamerice and Taisa Mattos

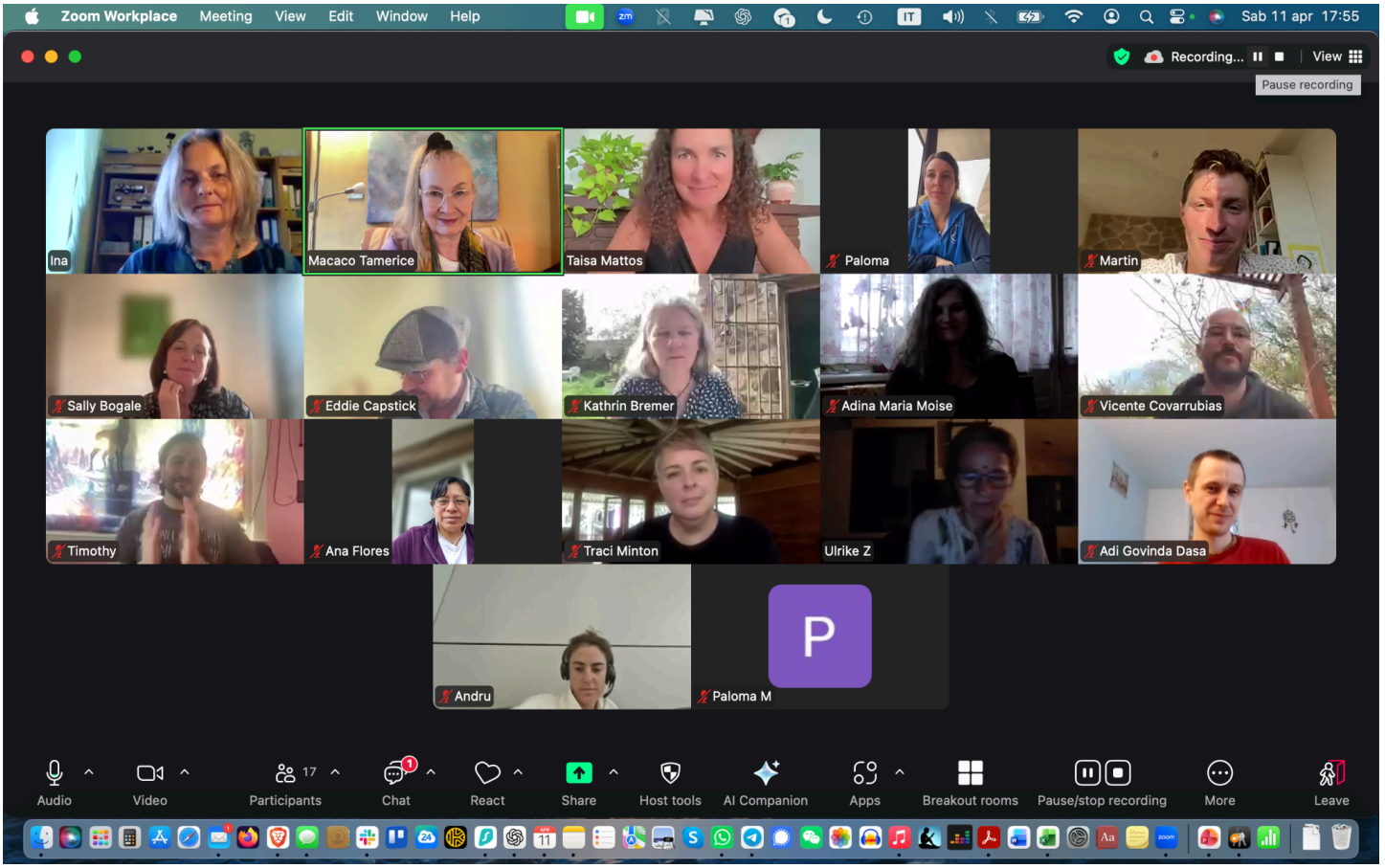
Creating Community & Embracing Diversity - Macaco Tamerice and Taisa Mattos
Leadership & Decision-Making - Macaco Tamerice and Taisa Mattos
Communication Skills & Conflict Management - Macaco Tamerice and Taisa Mattos
Dragon Dreaming: co-creating collaborative projects - John Croft (was included in the social dimension to support the Design Groups but in fact it is a Design Session)
Social and personal transformation - Ina Meyer-Stoll

Highlights: The group was mature, diverse, and highly engaged. Most participants already had some knowledge of the topics, which allowed us to explore them in greater depth.

Challenges: With 20 participants in total, there were fewer opportunities for interaction than in previous editions.

Pictures:





Ecological Dimension (150-250 words)

What happened in this dimension? What were the highlights? What topics were covered? What practical activities were performed? 2-3 participant quotes from the Gaia Education Evaluations or other sources. A sentence on each core faculty/facilitator. Any other information that you consider relevant. Include 2-3 pictures.

During the Ecological Dimension, we welcomed four guest trainers who brought a wealth of expertise and practical examples in key areas such as renewable energy, food security, natural building, permaculture design, and climate adaptation. Participants showed great interest throughout the sessions, with a strong awareness emerging of the need to transform our lifestyles and take action to address environmental challenges.



All four trainers were experienced permaculturists from different countries and backgrounds. This diversity, combined with the participants' international perspectives, helped create meaningful connections with the topics, enriched by examples and experiences relevant to different regions.

Topics and trainers:

Permaculture Design - André Soares

Green Building - Tomaz Lotufo

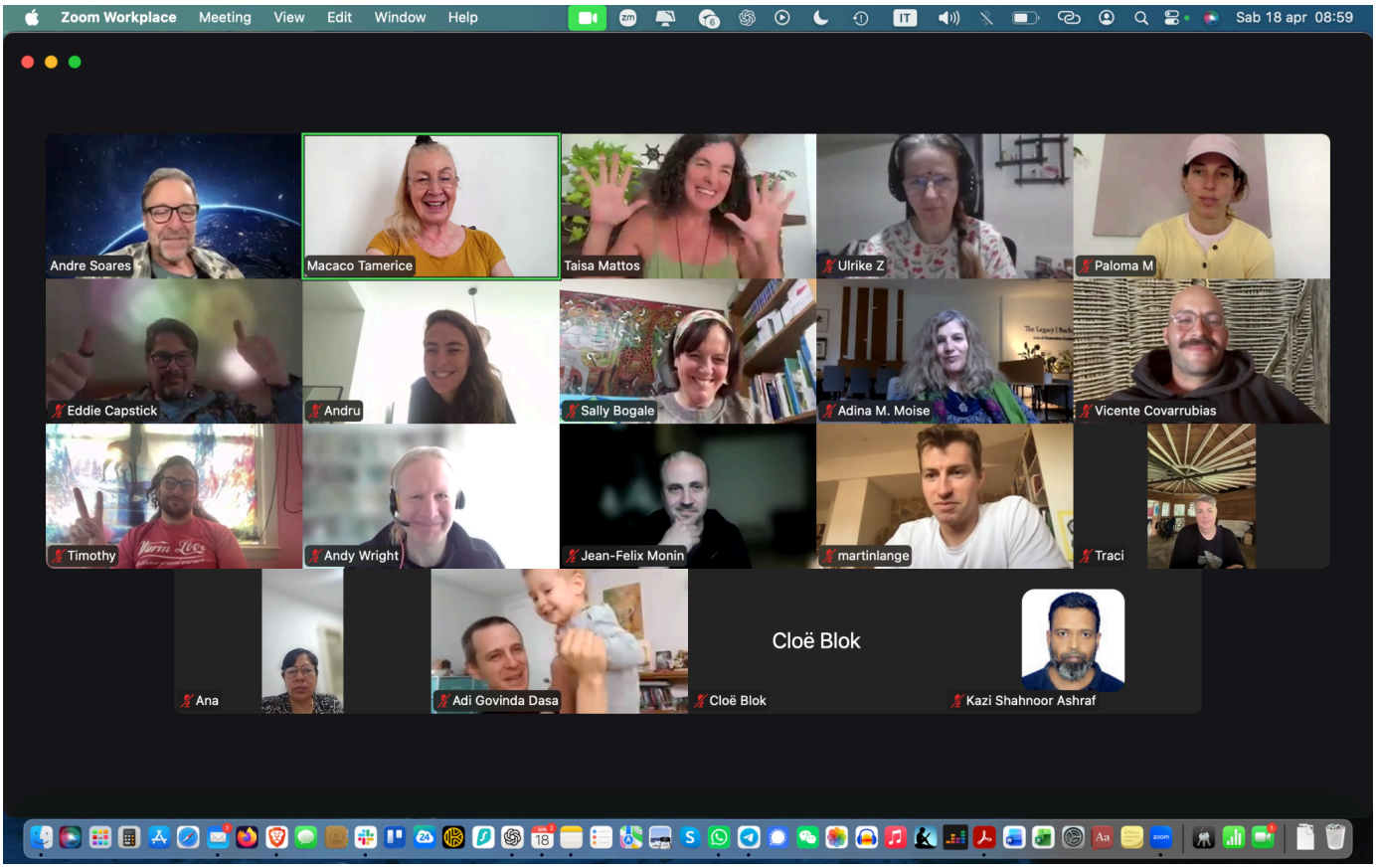
Renewable Energy & Water and Waste Management - Achim Ecker

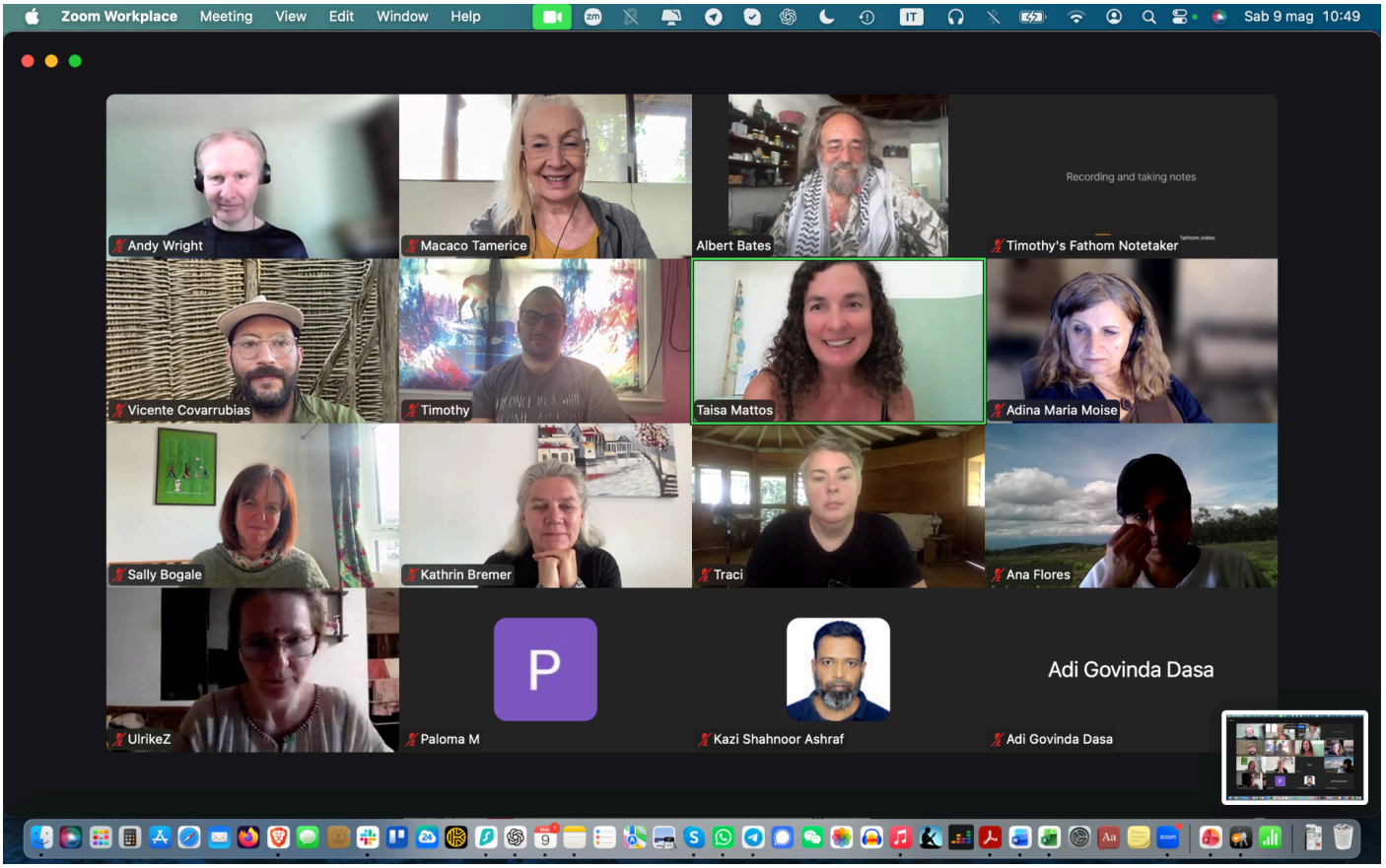
Climate Crisis & Food Security - Albert Bates

Highlights: The expertise, knowledge, and diversity of the guest facilitators created a rich mosaic of experiences and perspectives. Including a session on climate adaptation was particularly valuable and timely, given the turbulent times we are living in.

Challenges: There was a misunderstanding regarding live participation, which meant that some participants did not attend the Saturday sessions, affecting the group energy and flow of some sessions.

Pictures:


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Andre Soares
Macaco Tamerice
Taisa Mattos
Ulrike Z
Paloma M
Eddie Capstick
Andru
Sally Bogale
Adina M. Moise
Vicente Covarrubias
Timothy
Andy Wright
Jean-Felix Monin
martinlange
Traci
Ana
Adi Govinda Dasa
Cloë Blok
Cloë Blok
Kazi Shahnoor Ashraf



Economic Dimension (150-250 words)

What happened in this dimension? What were the highlights? What topics were covered? What practical activities were performed? 2-3 participant quotes from the Gaia Education Evaluations or other sources. A sentence on each core faculty/facilitator. Any other information that you consider relevant.

This dimension was an eye-opener for many participants, sparking deep reflections on the realities of our current economic system and the urgent need to redesign it. Money proved to be a particularly engaging and sometimes challenging topic. Exploring the importance of localisation highlighted how communities can strengthen local economies, build resilience, and reduce dependence on unsustainable global systems. The inspiring examples shared demonstrated how communities are already experimenting with alternative economic models, acting as living laboratories for the future.

Topics and trainers:

Shifting from Global Economy to Sustainability - Jonathan Dawson

Rethinking Money: Exploring Community-Based Systems - Macaco Tamerice and Taisa Mattos

Strengthening Local Economies: The Importance of Localization - Helena Norberg-Hodge

Exploring Economic Models in Communities - Anna Kovasna

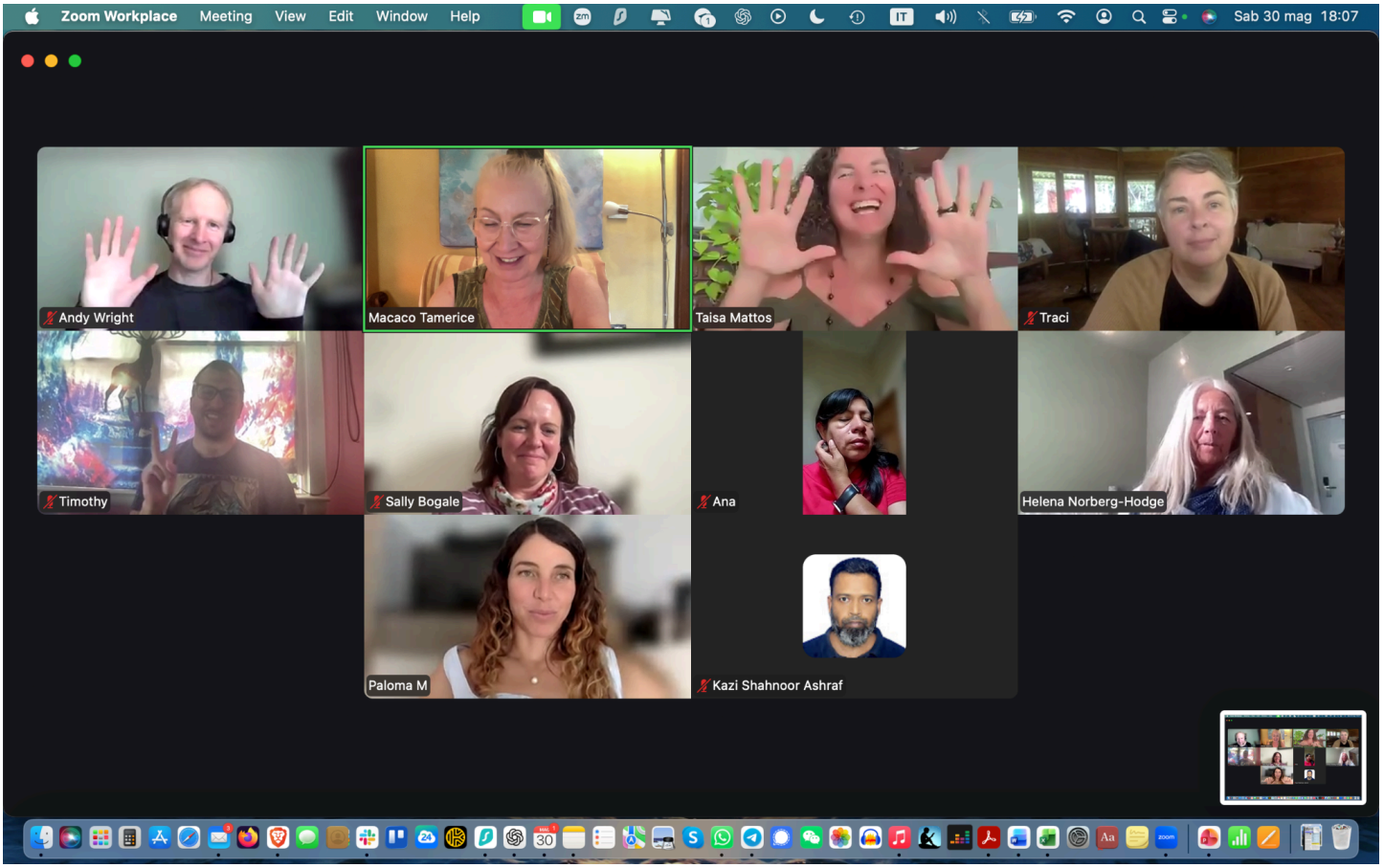
Highlights:

A new awareness of money and the economy emerged, challenging scarcity mindsets and highlighting our power as consumers. Participants explored how localisation can strengthen community resilience and support sustainable local economies, discovering alternative models through ecovillages, income-sharing systems, and complementary currencies.

Challenges:

One facilitator fell ill and had to interrupt the session, which was rescheduled for a Sunday near the end of the Economic Dimension. Many participants could not attend, and as this was an open session, several important topics were missed, leaving some gaps in the learning process.

Pictures:


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Andy Wright
Macaco Tamerice
Taisa Mattos
Traci
Timothy
Sally Bogale
Ana
Helena Norberg-Hodge
Paloma M
Kazi Shahnoor Ashraf



Worldview Dimension (150-250 words)

What happened in this dimension? What were the highlights? What topics were covered? What practical activities were performed? 2-3 participant quotes from the Gaia Education Evaluations or other sources. A sentence on each core faculty/facilitator. Any other information that you consider relevant.

For the Worldview Dimension, we welcomed an inspiring team of facilitators who combined touching experiences with practical approaches. Through experiential exercises, participants explored ways to reconnect with nature, opening the door to moments of wonder and in depth experiences. The sessions also addressed trauma and its impact on both individual lives and the collective dimension. The forum on regenerative education offered practical examples and valuable insights into how holistic approaches are being implemented in schools around the world. Participants explored global frameworks for sustainable development and inner development, and also reflected on what it means to create regenerative cultures.

Topics and Trainers:

Holistic Worldview & Reconnection with Nature - Macaco Tamerice

Transformation of Consciousness and Trauma Work - Kosha Joubert

Designing Regenerative Cultures - Daniel Christian Wahl

Mini Forum on Regenerative Education - Daniel Greenberg, Mugove Nyika & Taisa Mattos presenting the Gaia Schools

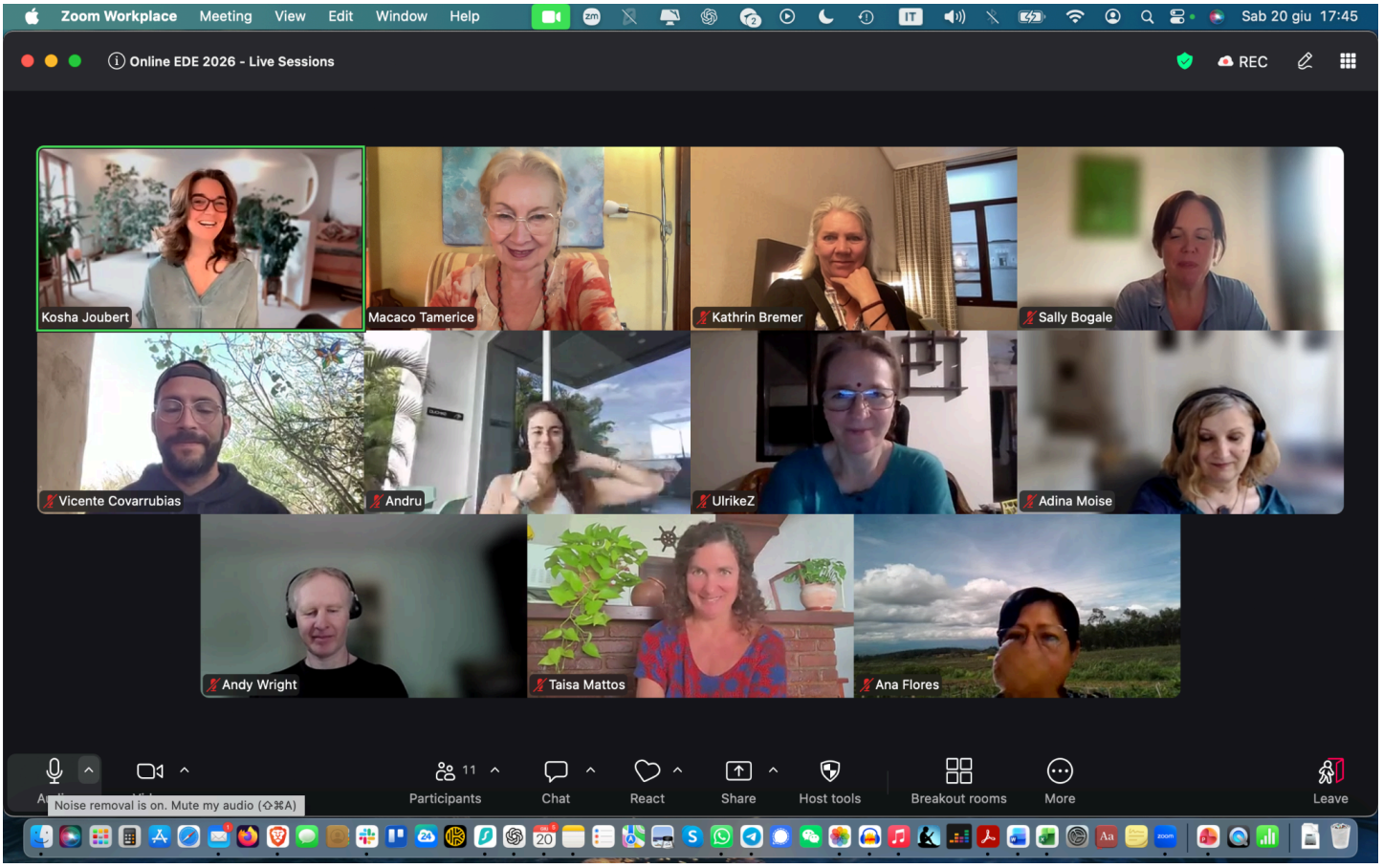
Navigating Global Frameworks: Sustainable Development & Inner Development Goals - Taisa Mattos

Highlights:

The new Forum on regenerative education bringing the example of the Gaia Schools. Exploring trauma was particularly timely and created space for deep sharing and reflection. The session on reconnecting with nature invited participants to deepen their connection with themselves and experience the natural world through their senses. The SDGs/IDGs session demonstrated how global goals can be naturally implemented at the community level, inspiring participants to identify ways to contribute.

Pictures:


Taisa Mattos
Macaco Tamerice
Daniel Christian Wahl



Design Dimension (150-200 words)

What happened in this dimension? What were the highlights? What topics were covered? What practical activities were performed? 2-3 participant quotes from the Gaia Education Evaluations or other sources. A sentence on each core faculty/facilitator. Any other information that you consider relevant.

Three sessions focused on design: Dragon Dreaming for co-creating collaborative projects, Permaculture Design, and Designing Regenerative Cultures, highlighting the importance of design in bringing ideas to life and creating meaningful change. The Design Groups took some time to get started, but once they found their rhythm, the work flowed very well.

3 groups were initially proposed according to timezones - East, Center, West to make it easier for participants to meet.

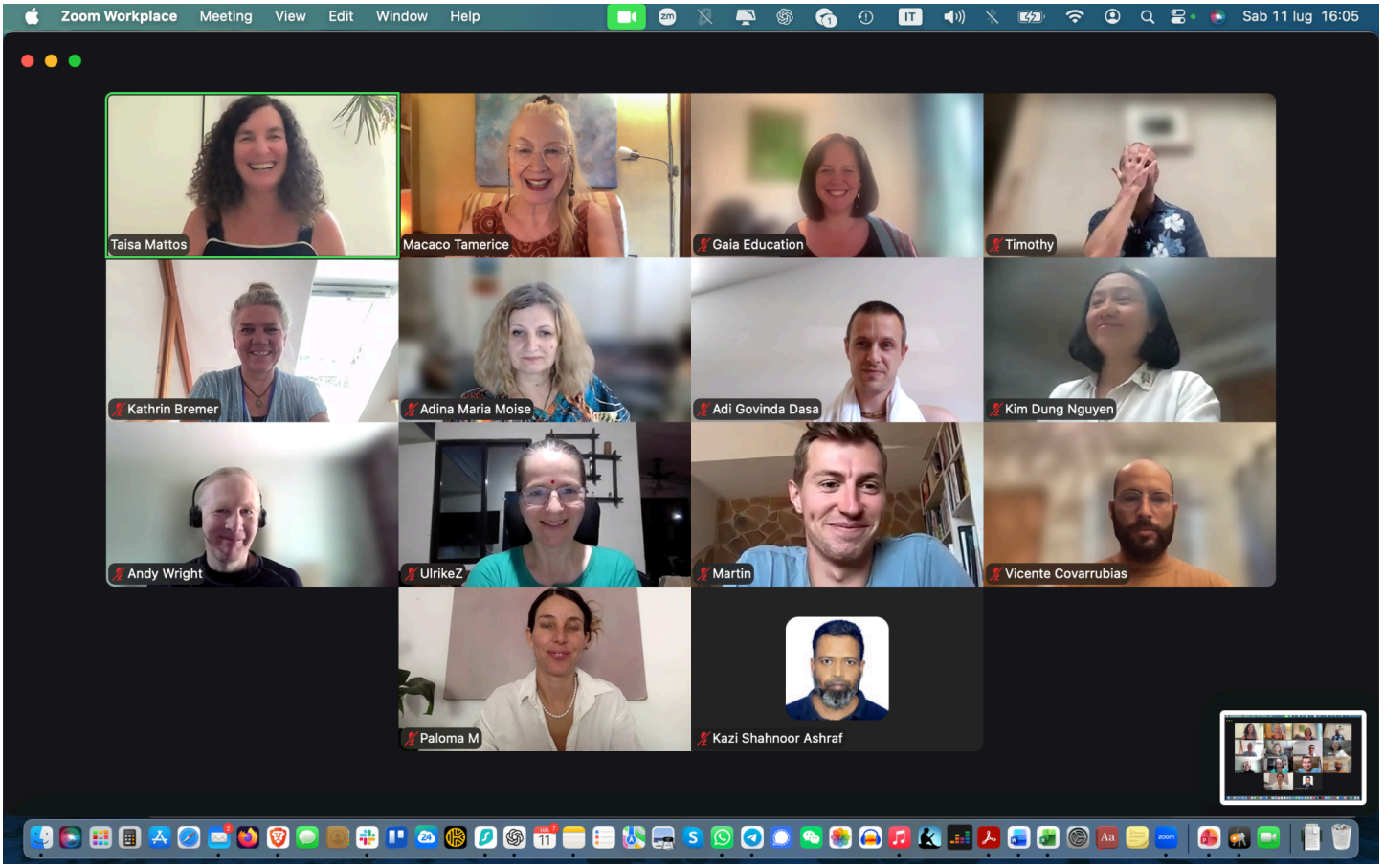
Highlights:

Having John Croft with us in person to teach Dragon Dreaming and initiate the Design Group process was a major highlight. Co-creating projects within such a diverse, international group offered rich learning experiences. The final Design Group presentations showcased high-quality projects, with some groups committed to continuing their work beyond the course.

Challenges:

The absence of some participants from the live sessions made it challenging to organise and sustain group work during the sessions

Pictures:


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Macaco Tamerice
Gaia Education
Timothy
Kathrin Bremer
Adina Maria Moise
Adi Govinda Dasa
Kim Dung Nguyen
Andy Wright
UlrikeZ
Martin
Vicente Covarrubias
Paloma M
Kazi Shahnoor Ashraf

Course challenges

In terms of overall course challenges we can mention the time zone differences making it harder for some [people in extreme time zones to engage.

Poor internet connection made participation difficult for a few people.

The internal miscommunication in Gaia Education regarding live participation made some people not join all the live sessions (as required).

As in previous editions, we introduced cultural moments, but the participants did not take ownership of the initiative, and it was not sustained throughout the course.

Design Studio Case Studies

Brief description of the case studies developed during the programme if applicable.

- **Triboo Coliving - Intergenerational Coliving for Regenerative Lifestyle**

The group mission is to co-create a thriving, nature-centered community that nurtures the interconnected wellbeing of people and planet, embraces regenerative living, and creates a positive legacy for future generations.

The Vision: An intergenerational coliving for regenerative lifestyle A community where there is deeper inter-connection and a regenerative way of living - restoring and revitalizing the web of life for future generations.

GaiaEd-OnlineEDE2026-TribooPresentation.pdf

- **Kuka:** What happens at the edge where an intentional community meets its neighbourhood?

KUKA is a virtual ecovillage — a living community that exists not in one place, but across four continents, woven together by shared values and a collective commitment to regenerative life. Its name is formed from the initials of its four co-creators.

This project includes a board game with cards and instructions that can be found in the folder.

KUKA - Magic happens at the edge

- **Gaia Reborn: Islands of Coherence**

A network of living laboratories where communities experiment with regenerative ways of living, learning, collaborating and organising. Through practical experimentation, shared learning and collective reflection, we develop and document approaches that can inspire and support transformation. All knowledge generated is released as open source, enabling others to adapt, apply and build upon our experiences.

V3 Gaia Reborn Final Presentation.pptx

Lessons Learned (50-150 words)

- What could help future EDE´s from your experience? What were your biggest learnings? If a recertified EDE, also list & respond to lessons learnt from your previous EDE. Describe your EDE in terms of the know-how and learning obtained, the stories and inspiration that happen to the participants and the organisers during the EDE or a good summary of a project or activity carried out during the program. Take into consideration that this will be circulated among the Gaia Education community, so they wish to learn, get inspired and be empowered by your program and your participant´s experiences.

Once again, we have demonstrated that it is possible to recreate the feeling and experience of an in-person EDE in an online environment, fostering deep connections between people from diverse backgrounds and living situations.

The online format made the EDE accessible to people who might otherwise have been unable to participate, due to financial constraints, the absence of EDE programmes in their countries, travel limitations or other circumstances.

Several elements contributed to the success of the programme. A diverse team of trainers brought different perspectives, experiences and global examples, enriching the learning journey. An experienced team was also essential to hold the field and sustain participants' engagement throughout the four-month programme.

The Gaia Education online course team played a crucial role behind the scenes, ensuring a smooth and efficient process by sharing links before each session and responding to participants' questions. The Gaia Education Forum provided a valuable communication platform, helping to build community and facilitate fruitful discussions.

One important lesson learned is the need to be very precise when promoting the course, clearly communicating what it offers, the time commitment required and the mandatory live attendance needed to obtain certification.

Concise financial information showing income/expenditure

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Participant Quotes

Send 3-4 participant quotes from the Gaia Education Evaluations or other sources, please include names and photos (send the photos as separate .jpeg files and properly captioned/named) – please make sure that the people in the photos have given their permission to be included.

Overall quotes:

We are happy to share a few **participant's quotes** related to the course and team:

- *Macaco and Taisa were excellent facilitators, very passionate/enthusiastic, friendly, genuine and obviously very knowledgeable. It was a highlight of the weekend spending a few hours with them. They did a great job of communicating sometimes complex topics in a way (that for me) was easy to understand. Also did a great job of keeping the conversation positive, trying to get everyone involved and keeping things on track.*

- *Taisa and Macaco created a warm, inclusive, and trusting learning environment. They facilitated with openness, clarity, sensitivity, and respect for different perspectives. I appreciated how they combined knowledge with practical experience and encouraged us to learn from one another. They did not simply deliver information; they modelled the values of community building through the way they listened, invited participation, and held the space. The energy they brought to each session made the course feel alive, meaningful, and human.*

- *The facilitators were well-prepared, approachable, and engaging. They explained the content clearly, encouraged participation, and created a positive, respectful learning environment.*

- *I am very grateful to the Gaia Education team for creating such a supportive and well-organised learning environment. Kin and Yan provided reliable technical support and helped the online sessions run smoothly.*

Some other quotes about the course, itself:

- Fantastic, im going to miss the saturday calls with great energy, smiles and leadership

- Loved the course, definitely one of the best things I've done recently, Saturday's haven't been as nourishing or as fun since.

- One of the greatest strengths of this programme was its holistic structure. The integration of the Social, Ecological, Economic, and Worldview dimensions helped me understand sustainability and regeneration not as separate subjects, but as one living system. The programme created a strong bridge between inner transformation, community building, ecological design, regenerative economy, and practical action.

- I feel deeply grateful for this EDE journey. It has strengthened my understanding of regenerative design, ecovillage thinking, and whole-systems sustainability. As a practitioner from Bangladesh working with permaculture, climate adaptation, community resilience, and regenerative education, this course has given me language, structure, and inspiration to carry this work forward.

- The strengths of this programme were the opportunity to learn from our resource person, the meaningful interactions and collaboration with our classmates in our working group, and the wealth of knowledge that was shared throughout the sessions. Another key strength was the opportunity to present our project, which helped us build confidence, apply what we learned, and receive valuable feedback.

- I feel deeply grateful for this learning journey. The energy in the class was beautiful, and I felt inspired by the facilitators and by the openness, kindness, and wisdom of the participants.

- I learned something from every person I met, especially from the members of my project group. The programme did more than give me knowledge and tools; it gave me hope. It reminded me that people can come together consciously, care for one another, work through differences, and co-create a more regenerative future.

  Regarding the Design group work:

- The KUKA final project helped me understand the power of the “edge” as a place of relationship, exchange, and transformation. I will carry this insight into my future work: the edge is not where community ends; it is where regeneration begins.