

# What is Permaculture?



The Permaculture concept originated in Australia, through the collaborative work of ecologists Bill Mollison and David Holmgren in the early 1970s at the University of Tasmania.

By 1978, Mollison and Holmgren had published their ideas as ***Permaculture One***.

## **Some definitions of Permaculture:**

Permaculture (permanent agriculture) is the conscious design and maintenance of agriculturally productive ecosystems which have the diversity, stability, and resilience of natural ecosystems. It is the harmonious integration of landscape and people providing their food, energy, shelter, and other material and non-material needs in a sustainable way. *—Bill Mollison, co-originator of the Permaculture concept*

The use of systems thinking and design principles that provide the organizing framework for creating consciously-designed landscapes. These landscapes mimic the patterns and relationships found in nature, while yielding an abundance of food, fiber and energy provision of local needs. *—David Holmgren, co-originator of the Permaculture concept*

Permaculture is a design system for ecological and sustainable living, integrating plants, animals, buildings, people, and communities.

## **The key points are that Permaculture:**

- Provides the element of design
- Integrates many 'green' ideas into a coherent whole

According to David Holmgren, Permaculture is also

- A grassroots, international movement of practitioners, designers, and organizations
- An empowering response to environmental and social crisis based on ethics and design principles
- A process for reclaiming our place in nature