

## Options into Opportunities

**TEKOA (Teach Each-other Knowledge Of All) = A social and ecological restoration!**

Friedrich Alpers 10 October 2022

An innovative Traditional Environmental Knowledge Outreach Academy (TEKOA).

The heart for learning and values where community elders are the mentors.  
Kavango East Region, Namibia

The core philosophy of TEKOA is to:

- promote,
- advance and
- embolden people in Truth based values, with the main focus on dignity restoration towards socio-economic sovereignty through a personal, societal and environmental restoration process.

### Aim:

The ultimate aim is to restore the well-being of people through a holistic societal and ecological approach founded on nature-based principles towards a social and environmental recovery.

### Action:

To establish, design (novel curriculum) and construct (university and research campus) an indigenous knowledge university in the Namibian savannah, the heartland of the San People linking Botswana, Namibia, Angola, and South African Indigenous minorities.

### Outcomes:

Actual socio-economic upliftment, character building, leadership advancement, indigenous knowledge furthering and applying holistic nature-based solutions in environmental management and agro-ecological principles across larger landscapes reaching and benefitting wider communities.

### Overview:

1. To allow for dignity and values restoration by starting within oneself.
2. An innovative university with a trans-frontier vision (KAZA TFCA) impacting global need themes.
3. TEKOA, a truly Namibian initiative, yet within a global framework based on nature-based solutions towards sustainable socio-economic development and holistic well-being.
4. Linking development priorities, science, indigenous knowledge systems, education, commerce and rural development.
5. Value restoration towards socio-economic development by improving the prospects of rural people, urban residents and youth through increased employment opportunities, holistic learning, investors, and business opportunities.
6. An intrinsic process of restoration for people, through the revival of values, community, and conservation for the benefit of serving each-other and neighbours.
7. It is a place where indigenous community elders with their expert knowledge, scientific reasoning and wisdom are fittingly recognised as the professors.

## Management:

1. The TEKOA Trust is a not-for-profit Namibian registered Trust, founded in 2015 with registration number T172/2015.
2. A technical and visionary board to oversee and guide implantation priorities.
3. Operations and management achieved through a local management structure and decision-making platform to allow for inclusive participation to address issues and find solutions.
4. Management team and ethos founded on Truth values and social prosperity.
5. Annual auditing done in Windhoek with Price Waterhouse and Cooper.

## Specialized Services:

TEKOA offers essential and life enriching learning and knowledge exchange opportunities taught by resident indigenous professors and an international cadre of professors. TEKOA is a pioneering alignment for learning and cultural exchange to recognise, preserve and disseminate invaluable indigenous knowledge and alike systems. TEKOA is not a steppingstone to mainstream educational institutions. TEKOA recognises the value of Traditional Knowledge as a science and develops ways for it to be nurtured, validated and incorporated into formal and non-formal education systems.

## Themes addressed (not limited to):

- |                                   |                                       |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ○ life skills                     | ○ cultural and social self-belief     |
| ○ environmental technology        | ○ food security with agroecology      |
| ○ indigenous knowledge systems    | ○ wildlife observation / conservation |
| ○ health and well-being           | ○ ethnobotany                         |
| ○ languages and art               | ○ orientation at home and away        |
| ○ business communication and IT   | ○ history and consequences            |
| ○ political ecology               | ○ job readiness                       |
| ○ environmental issues and ethics | ○ self-taught approach to growth      |
| ○ personal responsibility         | ○ wildlife tracking / observation     |
| ○ self-development                | ○ indigenous fire management          |

## Main budget lines:

1.	Construction of TEKOA indigenous university	USD \$ 1,775,000
2.	Procurement of vehicles and training equipment	USD \$ 712,000
3.	Establishment of TEKOA field training units (2)	USD \$ 880,000
4.	Operational costs for 5 years until self-sustaining	<u>USD \$ 981,000</u>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>USD \$ 4,348,000</b>

## Exit Strategy:

After the first 5 years the entire programme is anticipated to be financially self-sustaining through self-generated income and research grants from universities.

After another 7 years (12 years after completion) a Namibian cadre of managers, directors and operators are to run and operate the program.

Exit is after 12 years, after which a local management team would be ready to operate and expand the programme globally from secured income streams and business partnerships.

The business case for TEKOA has been developed on the basis that donor funds are obtained to build the training centre and to support the initial implementation stage (estimated at five years). The longer-term ambition is to ensure TEKOA is financially sustainable and operational costs are covered by income generating streams and smart business partnerships.

The proposed indigenous university and ecological monitoring training centre greatly contributes to national and regional youth capacity-building, conservation and sustainable development efforts with its multiple-focus: life skills and training, poverty alleviation through income generating activities and the preservation of Indigenous Knowledge Systems and natural resources.



