

Tlholego Eco-village and Learning Centre
Volunteer / intern / learnership opportunities

Recognizing the value of diversity in knowledge and skills transfer, we welcome volunteers and interns with interests in any of a wide range of issues relating to sustainable development.

Focus areas include:

- Integrated development
- Water stewardship
- Food security, sustainable farming and permaculture land design
- Ecological sanitation
- Appropriate technologies
- Earth architecture
- Climate adaption

There may also be opportunities to work on sustainability projects within our networks, including:

- Ashoka water stewardship collaboration
- Integral Without Borders

Possibilities for volunteer/intern roles include:

- Organizational development and capacity building
- Media and promotion
- Sustainable technology systems management
- Youth education and early childhood development (for Tlholego's planned school)
- Managing of food production
- Grant proposal writing and fundraising
- Small enterprise development within the community
- Sustainability education and workshop facilitation

Volunteers who come for shorter periods of time may choose to be involved in a range of activities, filling needs as they arise, or participating in a specific project (i.e. helping build a compost toilet). Those interested in taking more of a leadership role in a specific project or filling a particular role for a longer period of time can negotiate a more formal internship. Comfortable accommodation and meals will be provided in exchange for full time work. Volunteers are asked to make a small contribution to cover living expenses. To apply, please email a CV and/or letter of intent describing your background and interest to application stephne@tlholego.org.za

Prospective volunteers are interviewed either via email, Skype or telephone.

Volunteers can play an active part in the community, through living alongside its members and assisting in the permaculture gardens, in building and construction projects, special projects, general administration and in village consensus decision-making processes. Tlholego offers a real-life opportunity to learn and experience the challenges and rewards of ecovillage lifestyles and sustainability in general within an African context. Tlholego also runs a series of workshops covering permaculture design, eco-village development, sustainable building technology and land care through the Keyline Design and Earthworks Engineering. Leading authorities in their field facilitate these workshops. Volunteers generally have an opportunity to attend these workshops.

- **Project Location:** 120kms north-west of Johannesburg, South Africa
- **Website:** www.tlholego.org.za
- **Period:** Year round
- **Languages:** English, Setswana or Afrikaans

- **Who can volunteer?** Adults of both sexes 16+
- **Commitment:** 8 – 24 weeks
- **Cost:** Volunteers contribute £5 per day for their food and accommodation. Basic accommodation is available in comfortable dormitory style rooms.

“Tlholego’s layout and architecture provides a unique space for dialogue and reflection. Whereas most other attempts at so-called ‘African design’ either lack authenticity and/or are just for the effect, Tlholego is what it is without having to try too hard. The sense of connectedness to its local context via the School and the local community, and the continuity it achieves to an ancient past, makes for a special place that needs to be protected and preserved”. Professor Mark Swilling, Sustainability Institute, Stellenbosch South Africa