



AAAT ZANZIBAR 2023

PROJECT EXECUTION REPORT FOR THE 5TH AAAT
HELD IN ZANZIBAR AUGUST 6 TO 13TH 2023



Prepared by
judi Palmer
Executive Director
The Creative Education
Foundation Zanzibar
(Host organisation)

in consultation with the All
Africa Anthroposophic
Training Core Committee
October 2023



The 5th edition of the All Africa Anthroposophic Training (AAAT) took place in Zanzibar Tanzania in August 2023 (AAAT Zanzibar 2023). This 7 day immersive training held in Africa, for the people of Africa, was attended by 121 people from many countries all over the continent, and beyond.

The week's schedule was developed in conjunction with the hosting Zanzibar team, to meet their anthroposophic development needs and those of the host country, Tanzania. The over-arching theme of the week was "The Development of the 'I' in Service of Community." This was the final stand alone module of a training in progress for five years.

Opportunities for discussion, reflection and connection were integrated through the entire week's programme to build a strong understanding and network of African anthroposophic peers.

This report contains photographs, highlights, feedback, takeaways and financial records of AAAT Zanzibar 2023.

Below Reflections and Anthroposophic Deepening were a nightly event of AAAT Zanzibar 2023.





Eurythmy

Reflecting on the importance of eurythmy in the anthroposophic sciences, each day of AAAT Zanzibar 2023 began with 45 minutes of eurythmy, led by Cobie Roelvert. Balance, gesture, sound, and self-awareness were explored through movement and participants got to experience how this art can be used therapeutically and for education, well-being and to awaken the human soul and create connection.





Eurythmy sessions were structured around the six subsidiary exercises of the Text Study which immediately followed with Goethean Nature Observation. The text was prepared by Dr Michaela Glöckler, from the two versions by Rudolf Steiner, who also guided the nature observation task.

Dr Glöckler began the week by introducing anthroposophy to participants and set the task of each individual to observe nature and relate it with the human being. There were new tasks set each day as participants worked their way through the text and gained a greater understanding through dialogue and interpretations in their small groups.





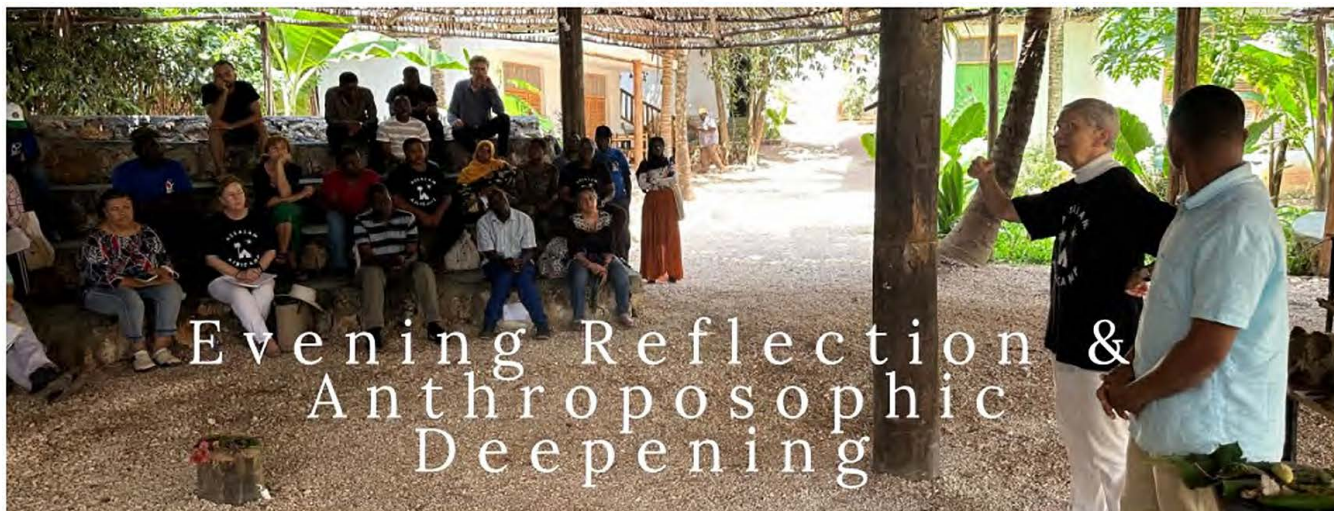
Above, participants observe their clay sculptures during the Creative Interactions workshop, with Angela Katschke

Participants were able to choose from the following workshops, offered in two afternoon streams; Understanding Child Trauma, Tasks and Perspectives of Climate Change, Management and Leadership Within Waldorf Schools, The Art of Participatory Community Development, Women are Medicine, The Value of Human Encounters & The Art of Creative Conversation, Understanding Special Needs Children (particularly relevant due to many African countries lacking in special needs education and care facilities), Parenting in a Digital Age, Building For, and With, People and the Environment, and finally, Creative Interaction; How Art Can Help Build Healthy Communities.

"THE SLOW PORGRESS THROUGH THE TEXT, WITH AN EXPERIENCED ANTHROPOSOPHIST IN EVERY SMALL GROUP, ALLOWED FOR A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING FOR THE MANY PEOPLE, LIKE ME, WHOSE FIRST LANGUAGE WAS NEITHER ENGLISH OR GERMAN ." GAMBIAN PARTICIPANT

Exploring elements of children's drawings in Understanding Child Trauma led by Judith Tabbener, and Dr Glockler





Every evening, following a break after the second professional workshop stream had been completed, participants formed one large group and one person from each workshop briefly shared their 'Ah Ha' experience for the day - the moments which deeply resonated for that person during the day's learning (see photos below). This was followed with Anthroposophic Deepening with Dr Michaela Glöckler (pictured above, with English - Swahili translator)





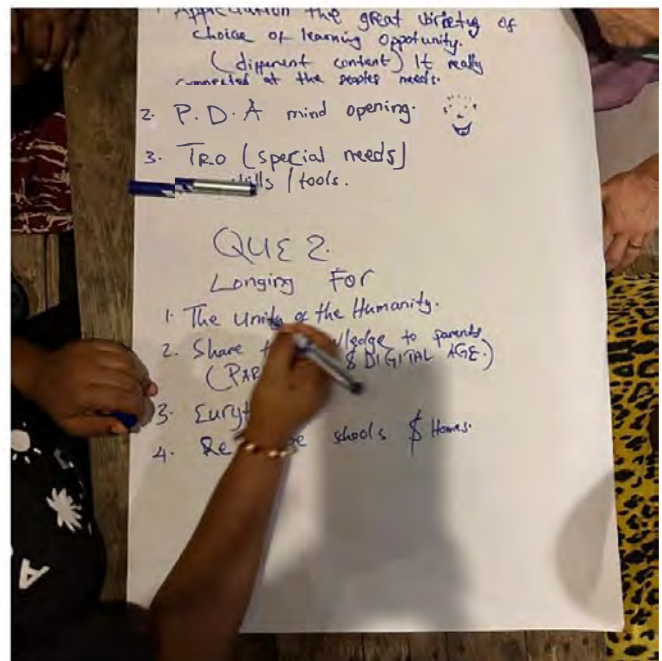
Participant Feedback

Two “Night Cafe’s” allowed for participants to extend their comfort zones and dialogue in new groups. Night Cafe One presented the opportunity to learn about different anthroposophical sciences, and Night Cafe Two enabled more connection, dialogue reflection and action planning opportunities. Some feedback included;

- “Initiating (this first session of) youth connections in the AAAT meetings”
- “Connecting to the Anthroposophic way of training to deepen our hearts”
- “(Our) personal transformation, and (our) increased knowledge & experience”
- “the biodynamic farming experience, connection to other farmers and our learning together”
- “The networking we have made across Africa and with other anthroposophic organisations”
- “The artistic and therapeutic education”
- “Acquiring new tools for communities to work for better”

From this, we can summarise AAAT Zanzibar 2023 was a success, in relation to the predetermined indicators mentioned on page 12, with connection and networking, new learning, and the intention to support participant communities with new learning important outcomes of the training..

“I HAVE BEEN A FARMER ALL OF MY LIFE. I NEVER KNEW ABOUT BIODYNAMIC FARMING. I HAVE USED CHEMICAL PESTICIDES AND FERTILISERS FOR 30 YEARS. I WILL NEVER USE THEM AGAIN. AFTER THIS TRAINING I ONLY WANT TO FOLLOW BIODYNAMIC PRACTICE.” ZANZIBAR FARMER



Participant action plans strove to continue the following;

1. More networking among participants and anthroposophical initiatives in Africa
2. Sharing our knowledge with our communities and the world
3. To continue to learn more
4. To carry forward biodynamic agriculture to other farmers
5. To increase Waldorf Education availability in Africa

“May the African spirit nourish anthroposophy worldwide”

“Looking forward to bringing the AAAT ‘harvest’ home to our communities’

“Establishing networking groups at local, country, and international levels.

“Applying our eurythmy learning to special needs education.”

“Integrating workshop knowledge within school.”

The following needs were identified;

- A need for ongoing networking
- Sharing with our communities and the world,
- Anthroposophic learning and leadership skills
- For farmers to be active to spread the word around biodynamic agriculture
- A need for the existing East African Rudolf Steiner Teacher Training to take place in other countries, to make it more accessible to others.

Presenters were very happy with the way the training was executed, and the dedication of the participants. Presenters highlighted the following impressions;

“People from all over Africa came with a wish to learn from each other, with a striving endeavour to be better and with a common ethos - it didn’t matter about people’s level of experience or where they came from.”

“The participation of the youth in this conference was unique and unexpected. The way it was organically addressed by the impulse to develop something specific to their needs was significant.”

“The participation and strong interest in the workshops showed that this work was greatly needed.”

THE CONFERENCE WAS DESIGNED BY THE LOCAL HOST ORGANISATION, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE AAAT CORE COMMITTEE, TO ENSURE THE ANTHROPOSOPHIC TRAINING NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE OF AFRICA WERE MET. IN THIS SENSE, THE ALL AFRICA ANTHROPOSOPHIC TRAINING IS UNIQUE; IT IS A FULLY IMMERSIVE TRAINING DESIGNED BY THE PEOPLE OF AFRICA, FOR THE PEOPLE OF AFRICA.

Below, many meaningful exchanges took place during The Value of Human Encounters and the Art of Creative Conversation a very popular workshop back for a second time at AAAAT and led by Richard Goodall.





Countries Represented

AAAT Zanzibar 2023 welcomed 121 participants, half of whom came from the host country, Tanzania, and a further half of those (31) from the host island, Zanzibar. Fifteen countries were represented, with ten countries from the African Continent. Country attendance distribution by participant was follows.

Australia - 1, Belgium - 1, Botswana - 3, Egypt - 1, Ethiopia - 1, Germany - 6, Kenya - 8, Namibia - 2, South Africa - 13, Tanzania - 58 (31 being from Zanzibar), Turkey - 6, The Gambia - 4, Uganda - 6, Zimbabwe - 8, UAE - 3

Twenty six participants received complete Conference Fee support to enable attendance, with an average fee of \$111 paid by the reminder. With people travelling from all over Africa to receive this training at their own expense, one hundred and sixteen places were subsidised to some extent.

With greater funding to offset Conference Fees it is envisioned many more participants would have attended, as pre-conference enquiries indicated. Unfortunately due to lack of funding, AAAT Zanzibar 2023 turned away people wanting to attend because we were not in a financial position to offer more attendance equity. We are very thankful we were able to support so many to participate, learn and share.

The average cost of organising the training was \$367 per person. In Tanzania, an average teacher's income is \$300 per month, so we believe attendance equity needs to remain a goal of AAAT.

Below, and base of next page, indicative of the wonderful mix and co-operation between cultures, participants in the Building, For & With People and the Environment workshop, led by S.African Wilfried Bohm, came from The Gambia, Zanzibar, Turkey, Mainland Tanzania and Zimbabwe.



New Initiatives arising out of AAAT 2023

As when people of passion and ideas get together, the AAAT acted as a 'think tank' for many ideas to further anthroposophy across Africa. Some firm plans were made as a result of the opportunity of attending and participating in the training;

1. Initiatives in Tanzania made a commitment to meet up for further training in pedagogy in December. This will include the people of Hekima Waldorf School from Dar es Salaam, The Creative Education Foundation Zanzibar, Mwanangu Special Waldorf School, Assalam Community Foundation and Vikindu Tanzania. In all, this could amount to around 40 people
2. A commitment from CEFZ was made to attempt to further develop their biodynamic farm connected to The Zanzibar Steiner School as a Center of Learning for the farmers of Zanzibar. Angela Hoffman and Oliver Vernance, visiting biodynamic farmers, have provided a step by step pathway for CEFZ to follow to reach this goal.
3. Following the AAAT, an extended biodynamic training took place for 14 people on the biodynamic farm of CEFZ. This was again led by Angela Hoffman and Oliver Vernance.
4. AAAT Core and Planning groups committed to events for youth, as the next generation to carry the flame of anthroposophy in Africa.
5. Plans for a regular AAAT newsletter to were made to promote anthroposophy in Africa, and spread African anthroposophic news around the world.
6. A two week learning exchange visit took place in October between a Zanzibari organic farmer who found sponsorship to visit to a biodynamic farm in Namibia. This connection was formed at the conference.
7. Botswana initiatives formed a text study group during the AAAT.

THE MANY REQUESTS FOR MORE ANTHROPOSOPHIC LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN AFRICA, AND THE WISH TO NETWORK AND MAINTAIN LEARNING AND PARTNERSHIPS CANNOT BE IGNORED

Below, with limited attention to the arts in the traditional African educational setting, many participants took the opportunity to cultivate their artistic abilities in the Creative Interactions workshop.



Impact of AAAT on the Host Organisation & Country

**CONNECTION - LEARNING - BELIEF IN THE ANTHROPOSOPHICAL CAUSE - HOST ORGANISATION
STAFF FEELING OF BELONGING TO WORLDWIDE MOVEMENT - A CLEAR COMMITMENT TO
DEVELOPING IN RESPECT TO ANTHROPOSOPHIC PRINCIPLES FOR THE HOST ORGANISATION AND
IT'S MEMBERS - MOTIVATION TO LEARN MORE - HOST ORGANISATION TEAM UNITY - UNITING ON
A NATIONAL LEVEL - LOCAL GOVERNEMENT UNDERSTANDING**

The Creative Education Foundation Zanzibar (CEFZ) was keen to host AAAT 2023 for two main reasons - forming connections with other like-minded people and organisations and, since attending training outside of Zanzibar is a very expensive exercise, CEFZ staff wanted to have the opportunity to attend the training. The following were the impacts of the training;

1. Connection - between CEFZ and other peoples from within Tanzania and around Africa who hold similar desires to personally grow, have their communities grow and to work together for the common good of humanity and our earth.
2. The Executive Director was able to also able to connect, and improve her knowledge
3. Every single person in the Host Organisation could and did attend due to the low travel costs involved. This was unprecedented. Travel costs for all Tanzanians were lower.
4. The government of Zanzibar attended the training and learned about anthroposophy, & what we are trying to achieve in Zanzibar, and how anthroposophy can be applied. Representatives from the ministries of Child Welfare, Agriculture, Environment, Education, Youth, and the President's Office all attended. This strengthened partnerships and understanding.
5. The unique realisation for our staff that they are part of a world-wide movement
6. The nature of this learning 'retreat' induced a comoraderie between all members of the organisation and motivation as more people now understand anthroposophy and strive to apply their learning in the workplace.
7. A strong bond was formed between all Tanzanians, with promises of exchange between organisations and country meetings to develop our practice.

FOR MANY OF THE PARTICIPANTS OF ZANZIBAR AND TANZANIA, HAVING HAD LIMITED PREVIOUS EXPOSURE TO ANTHROPOSOPHY, THE TRAINING WAS THEIR FIRST MEANINGFUL INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOSOPHY, AND A CHANCE TO UNDERSTAND THEY ARE PART OF A GREATER WORLD WIDE MOVEMENT.

Below, Text Study was always held in small groups, with the presence of an experienced anthroposophist, in order to increase participant comfort levels and to ensure comprehension of the text, translated into both English and Swahili.



Analysing the Success of AAAT Zanzibar 2023

Due to a depressed fundraising climate, it was necessary to limit guests to favour those who could contribute to their Conference Fee to assist in meeting the costs of the training conference. Thus, the final conference attendee number was 121, which was a very healthy number and a reflection of a successful conference.

Key Performance Indicators noted by the AAAT Planning Committee before conference are listed here, with our response;

- 1. Acceptance of invitations to present by speakers of international repute in the fields of anthroposophy** - the conference attracted prestigious presenters who were both respected and influential within the anthroposophic sciences. Their passion to share their knowledge and connect with people aspiring towards or working in African anthroposophic circles was evident in their commitment to the AAAT every presenter approached accepted our invitation.
- 2. Attendance by African and international anthroposophists and people wishing to increase their knowledge of anthroposophic practice** - 121 participants, thirsty to learn more, coming from ten countries within Africa, and fifteen countries world wide
- 3. The number of attendees and range of participants represented from diverse backgrounds** - fifteen countries world wide, from youth to senior, all working together to advance themselves, support their communities and the earth.
- 4. New initiatives & peer alliances made as a result of attending the conference - or strengthening of existing initiatives/alliances in Africa, based on participant feedback at conclusion of the training conference** - as per participant feedback from Night Cafe surveys, and as stated on page 19 of this report, "Initiatives arising from AAAT", and page 20, "Impact on host....country" the joining of initiatives to strengthen their anthroposophical knowledge and to keep learning has begun in Tanzania and Botswana. Peer exchange has taken place between Zanzibar and Namibia, the biodynamic farm improvements at the host organisation, CEFZ, have begun, as we move towards fulfilling the need for a center of learning accessible to more.

Additional indicators of the success of AAAT Zanzibar 2023 are;

1. The desire for many more people to attend than was possible - in the lead up to the conference, the team fielded applications from 162 people who wished to attend
2. The consistent presence of participants in workshops every day of the conference
3. The overwhelming theme of participants in feedback that they desire more training opportunities
4. The successful collaboration and the respect shown by the AAAT to the host country to ensure their anthroposophic needs were met by this training
5. The presence of 50% of participants from the host country, despite very limited attendance equity
6. The program of AAAT 2024 fostered connection, dialogue and reflection.
7. Facilitator and participant feedback was positive.

Below, participants of the Special Needs Education workshop, which was presented by Mpho Makutu and the Camphill Botswana Team, with Janet Manoni and Julia O'Leary.





Besides new initiatives, the following has been determined for AAAT 2024, and beyond;

1. A new theme for the next cycle of All Africa Anthroposophic Training is to be determined over the next few months. One possibility is “The Three Fold Social Order” in four modules - culture, society, economics and ecology.
2. The country host of AAAT 2024 will be Botswana.
3. The attraction for conference participants from outside Africa increased the revenue of AAAT Zanzibar 2023 and is an area for financial support. AAAT Zanzibar 2023 asked attendees from outside Africa to pay a higher Conference Fee, which supported places of less financially endowed participants.
4. Enabling conference equity for participants from Africa remains a focus of AAAT, since the continent generally experiences lower incomes than elsewhere in the world.
5. Youth involvement at the 2023 conference was a new development. AAAT will try to make the 2024 program inclusive of youth, the next generation to carry the flame of anthroposophy forward in Africa
6. The “AAAT Support Fund” was established by Eliant Foundation. This fund is receiving grants and donations to cover the USD 11,674 deficit and fundraising to ensure the future of AAAT. Interested parties can support by donating via this link <https://eliant.eu/en/donate-en>



Special Thanks to Those Who Made AAAT Zanzibar 2023 Possible



All Africa Anthroposophic Training (AAAT) 2023 wish to thank to the following donors for helping us bring this training to 121 participants in Africa; International Hulpfonds The Netherlands, Stichting Iona, GLS Treuhand, Anthroposphical Society of the Western Cape, Dr Micaela Glöckler, Stiftung Eliant GmbH for their loan to ensure the training went ahead, and the Host Organisation, The Creative Education Foundation Zanzibar.

In addition, AAAT Zanzibar 2023 would like to thank all presenters including, Dr. Michaela Glöckler (IPMT Founder, Anthroposophical Pediatrician, Head of Medical Section of the General Anthroposophical Society, Switzerland), Dr. Friedemann Schäd (Klinik für Anthroposophische Medizin, Berlin), Maaianne Knuth (Founder, Kifunda Children's Village, Zimbabwe), Mussa Ali (Steiner Teacher, CEFZ), Janet Manoni (Waldorf Teacher & Founder of Mwanangu Development Tanzania), Julia O'Leary (co-ordinator IPMT South Africa and AAAT Africa, Eurythmy Teacher), Cobie Roelvert (Center for Creative Education, S.A.), Patrick Seguija (Federation of Free Education Initiatives, Uganda), Joan Sleight (World Social Initiative Forum, Global Leadership Scholar and Consultant), Wilfred Böhm (Architect, retired Lecturer, Cape Peninsula University of Technology), Mpho Makutu (Special Needs Educator, Botswana Camphill), Proscovia Nankya (Biodynamic Farmer, Uganda), Cobie Roelvert (Eurythmist, S.Africa), Angela Katschke (The Butterfly Project, S.Africa), Angela Hofmann (Biodynamic Farmer, Sekem Waldorf School), Oliver Vernance (Biodynamic Farmer, Tanzania), Portia Monga, Kgomoitso Seleka, Judith Tabbener, Julia Schäd, Richard Goodall, and more.

The Core Group of the AAAT also wish to acknowledge the efforts of its members, and the members of the AAAT Planning Team. Of course, we should not forget the passion of our participants, who traveled from all over Africa at their own expense, to take part in this training.

Without all of the people and organisations mentioned above, and more, there would be no opportunity for such a unique training for the people of Africa.